

Shamir vows to build settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed Sunday that Israel would build more Jewish settlements in Arab Jerusalem. Israel on the occupied territories, in exchange for \$400 million in loan guarantees for immigrant housing. But Palestinians fear the U.S. money will be used to build Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem. In a speech at the opening of a Jewish institute in a mainly Arab area of Jerusalem, Shamir pledged other Jewish sites would go up in the area soon. "We are certain that not for long will it remain the one and only Jewish neighbourhood, big and firm," Shamir said. Asked by Israel Radio later if Israel intended to build apartments for Jews, including immigrants, in Arab Jerusalem, Shamir said: "There is no doubt about this. Jerusalem is a part of the state of Israel."

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Israelis raid Gaza mosque

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (R)

— Israeli forces raided a mosque in occupied Gaza City Sunday, confiscating Islamic writings that might be used to inflame the Palestinian uprising.

The midnight raid on Al Salam Mosque also recovered scarves used by activists to hide their faces from Israeli forces, uniforms and clubs, the officials said.

They said the commander ordered troops to break into two rooms where a mosque employee accompanying them refused to open the doors. Inside they found some of the materials confiscated.

Residents accused troops of desecrating the mosque by erasing Koran verses inscribed on the walls, destroying the donations box and decorative glass and writing the name Israel and a Jewish star of David across a map of Palestine.

On Saturday, Israeli police in Arab Jerusalem fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse hundreds of stone-throwers protesting at the closure of the main entrance to the village.

Police fired rubber bullets, and tear gas to disperse angry residents of Issawich village, who huddled stones at passers-by and at a Jewish hospital in the area. Two teenagers were wounded and five arrested, police said.

Earlier this week Israeli forces blocked off the southern entrance of the village to stop stone-throwing incidents along the busy road it faces. Police said they had told village leaders it would only be reopened when peace returned.

In Arab Jerusalem, Palestinian activists set alight six cars overnight. Trenching cars, especially those with Israeli licence plates,

(Continued on page 5)

Banks continue to work 6 days

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan said Sunday the government's decision to observe a two-day weekend does not cover commercial banks. In a circular to commercial banks, the CBJ said that commercial banks will continue to work six days a week.

Jordan Phosphates Mines Company Director General Wasef Azar said the company was not covered by the decision and would continue to work six days a week. Azar noted that companies with business relations with international institutions are not covered by the new measures announced Saturday by the government to conserve energy. The decisions do not cover private sector institutions.

Press and cons. page 3

EC ministers differ over Gulf crisis

VENICE, Italy (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers agreed Sunday there could be no compromise with Iraq and discussed the complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of Kuwait's former government. But the West could explain to Iraq that if it fulfilled those obligations too, pressure would be lifted and other talks could begin.

U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher were quoted Sunday as saying they expected Iraq to pull out of Kuwait without a war in the Gulf. "I have no doubt that the Gulf crisis will be resolved by Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and by the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait," Bush told the Sunday Express newspaper.

He said he did not believe that military action was inevitable. "It is my hope that the international sanctions now in place against Iraq will cause Saddam Hussein to recalculate the cost of his aggression and withdraw from Kuwait and that the crisis will be resolved peacefully," he said.

Thatcher, interviewed by the same newspaper, said the Gulf crisis would be resolved in favour of international law and order as expressed in United Nations resolutions.

"That means Saddam Hussein leaving Iraq on a one-way ticket and the legitimate government restored," she said.

Badran says Gulf peace hope revived

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday voiced optimism that chances for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis had been revived only a week after it appeared that war was inevitable in the region.

"The drums of war have quietened down," the prime minister told the American Cable News Network (CNN) television in an interview. There is a positive tone in the region, which calls for optimism, he said referring to French President Francois Mitterrand's four-stage peace plan for the Middle East linking the Gulf crisis with other problems in the region and U.S. President George Bush's speech to the U.N. in which he said that Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could open the door for a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Badran also noted that the position of the Soviet Union is also close to the position of France. Yegor Gorbachev, a special envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, must have achieved something during his recent visit to Baghdad and talks with Iraqi leaders since he expressed optimism upon his departure while he was pessimistic earlier, the prime minister said.

Badran stressed that the key to comprehensive peace in the Middle East lies in a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Jordan, from the very onset of the Gulf crisis, has sought a peaceful inter-Arab solution to the problem but "we were misunderstood because of our position and our rejection of internationalising the issue," Badran

told CNN. Jordan was certain Iraq had no plans to attack Saudi Arabia and that was the reason Amman emphasised that the problem could be resolved by Arab countries, he said.

Badran confirmed that the Saudi ambassador to Jordan had been recalled and expressed regret that "things have reached this point." He noted that Jordan had recalled its ambassador from Riyadh in protest against Saudi Arabia's expulsion of Jordanian diplomats.

The prime minister rejected Saudi charges that Jordanian diplomats were involved in activities which could have threatened the security of Saudi Arabia and also regretted that the situation in Jordanian-Saudi relations had deteriorated. "Jordan used to maintain unique relations with Saudi Arabia," he noted. Strain in inter-Arab relations as between Jordan and Saudi Arabia could really harm Arab solidarity and interests, he said and expressed hope that Amman-Riyadh ties would return to normal soon.

The Saudi moves against Jordan were prompted by Amman's pan-Arab stand and its quest for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, he said.

Jordan's adherence to the international sanctions imposed on Iraq has severely affected the Kingdom's economy, and it would have lost around \$1.1 billion by the end of the year, he said. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that Jordan would lose \$2.5 billion during 1991, he added.

Badran referred to a Japanese

pledge of \$100 million in loans under soft terms and two other loan packages of \$75 million each, the first under "medium rate of interest" and the second under normal rate of interest.

Badran said that Jordan's position vis-a-vis the U.N. embargo on Iraq was very clear and that Jordan was observing the binding Security Council resolution in this regard. Badran was replying to a question on Jordan's stand towards the embargo on Iraq, given the rejection voiced by Muslim fundamentalists.

Badran said he was unaware of any such feelings about Jordan's adherence to the Security Council resolutions. However, if such feelings exist, then they are individual feelings, he said.

He noted that Jordan had never been asked to reverse its decision on this subject by any groups or by Parliament.

Jordan's full adherence to the Security Council resolutions has received the applause of the chairman of the council's Sanctions Committee, he said.

The energy-saving measures the government intends to apply as of next Saturday have been prompted by the shortage of oil supplies, Badran said. He noted that Jordan is currently using part of its oil reserves instead of building such reserves. Given this situation, Jordan resorted to a host of measures, including a five-day working week, closure of shops at 7:00 p.m. putting off street lights at 5 a.m. as well as other measures, he said.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq sees war imminent, vows 'every means' to protect itself

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI INFORMATION minister has said war with the United States could erupt "at any moment" and that his country would use "every means" to protect itself.

In an interview with the German news magazine Der Spiegel, Latif Nassayif Jassam also repeated his country's warning that the Middle East would go up in flames if war breaks out.

"We have the power to let the whole oil region go up in an inferno," Jassam was quoted as saying by the Hamburg-based magazine.

"War can break out at any moment. But that all depends on the Americans," he was quoted as saying.

"No one has any idea the kind of explosion that would be set free, what would happen in the whole Islamic world," he reportedly said.

Jassam said Iraq was not "destruction-crazy" but would "defend ourselves with every means if we are attacked," the magazine reported.

"And we have means which you still don't even suspect. We won't let ourselves be simply slaughtered," he said.

Jassam said Iraq had no intention of attacking Saudi Arabia. Jassam also said Iraq would free westerners it is holding as "guests" if the United States vows in writing not to attack his country.

Jassam accused Israel of preparing to launch an offensive against Iraq, pointing out that Israelis have been handed out gas masks.

"If Israel is now readying itself that indicates it wants to attack us. If Israel delivers the first blow we will correspondingly strike back," Jassam was quoted as saying.

Israel Sunday began the distribution of gas masks.

Israel radio said 25,000 special masks, designed to fit over beards, were being imported from Germany by an orthodox Jewish institute in Jerusalem. Standard masks issued by the army are not airtight if worn over the full beards of pious Jewish men.

The biggest-selling newspapers — Yediot Ahronoth and Maariv — published screaming headlines quoting U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on American television saying an Iraqi attack on Israel was "a real possibility."

"It's possible that (Iraq) will use (its) military capability to try to break the embargo, to perhaps attack Saudi Arabia or to lash out at Israel or in some other fashion use (us) force to try to change the dynamics of the circumstance. And we have to be prepared for that," Cheney said in a CNN television interview.

Cheney said that U.S. forces will stay as long as necessary in the Gulf region and do not have a deadline or timetable for launching any possible attack.

"I think the notion that somehow the United States cannot stay the course just isn't a valid one," he said.

"If at some point the president decides, or there is a provocation which (Iraq) wants to respond to, to use military force, then we'll be prepared to do that. But to

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein receives Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

King, Arafat review Gulf peace efforts

PLO leader says Jordan leading efforts for Arab solution to crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Sunday discussed efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis and other Middle Eastern problems through political means and made an assessment of the positions of various countries towards the region's conflicts.

The King and Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), discussed "efforts made at the Arab and international levels to find a political settlement to the Gulf crisis and other problems in the Middle East," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

According to senior officials,

the King and Arafat also stressed the positions of various countries whose leaders have come out with statements indirectly linking the Gulf crisis with the rest of the problems of the Middle East — the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese strife.

Following the meeting Arafat told reporters that King Hussein was leading efforts for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

"There are two solutions for the Gulf crisis — an Arab solution and an American solution... His Majesty King Hussein is leading the Arab solution," he said.

The Palestinian leader explained that the basic element of the Arab solution was a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the other problems plaguing the region.

He said that despite initial reservations an international consensus has emerged stressing such a linkage was

indicated in statements made by American, Soviet, French, British and Italian leaders.

"What was said to be impossible is emerging as a reality today," he said.

Arafat criticised the Arab countries which have attacked the idea of linking a solution to the Gulf crisis to an overall settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa has contended that such a linkage will only serve Israeli purposes.

"I challenge those who were talking about achieving strategic parity (with Israel)... to give an alternative to liberate Palestine and the Golan Heights," Arafat said.

He reiterated the PLO's opposition to the U.S.-led military build-up in the Gulf.

"How would you expect me as the

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq, Iran to discuss restoring relations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Iran will next week discuss restoring diplomatic relations, according to Baghdad Television.

The station said late Saturday an Iraqi Foreign Ministry delegation would leave for Tehran Tuesday and the reopening of embassies closed during the Gulf War would be discussed.

Baghdad made peace with Tehran in August soon after taking over Kuwait.

Iraq and Iran fought an eight-year-long war in the Gulf, halted by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August, 1988. Their ambassadors were withdrawn just before the outbreak of fighting.

Baghdad Television said the delegation would follow up wartime issues agreed last month during a visit to Baghdad by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki.

Among topics Mottaki discussed with Iraqi officials were the finalising of borders between the two countries and the completion of the repatriation of prisoners-of-war (POWs).

Thousands of POWs have been exchanged by Iraq and Iran during the past weeks and Iraq has withdrawn its troops from Iranian territory to free them for possible redeployment to the south.

Syrians will not join Gulf offensive — commander

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Syrian troops were deployed in Saudi Arabia to help oppose any Iraqi attack and would not join an attack on Iraq, their commander said in an interview published Sunday.

"The Syrian forces came to defend Saudi Arabia and Islamic sites," Major General Ali Habib told Al Khaleej newspaper published in Sharjah. "Our forces will not participate in any offensive in the region."

Syria joined a massive U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

But Habib, whose country has been at odds with Iraq for two decades, warned Baghdad against starting a war.

"I hope the Iraqi leadership will not resort to hostilities of any kind because this will inflict heavy losses on their forces," he said.

Syria has some 4,000 troops in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Diplomats said Syria was sending another 11,000 troops.

Habib declined to discuss the numbers but said Syria was ready to send more troops if Saudi Arabia asked for them.

Abdul Meguid in Syria

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid arrived in Damascus Sunday for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the Gulf crisis.

Abdul Meguid indicated that the purpose of his visit was to boost cooperation in forcing Iraq out of Kuwait.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa indicated that Syrian-Egyptian cooperation formed a cornerstone for cooperation among Arab League countries. An August Arab League resolution called for an Iraqi pullback, but not all members voted for the resolution.

Both Cairo and Damascus are participating in the U.S.-led multinational forces in Saudi Arabia. Sharaa told reporters that their talks would centre on the Gulf crisis, especially since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had caused an "imbalance in the region," which should be redressed "through consultation with our brothers" in Egypt and other Arab states.

Abdul Meguid was accompanied by Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's chief political aide.

Syria has rejected Iraqi demands for an overall settlement to Middle East problems, saying that linking the invasion of Kuwait with the Palestinian issue benefits only Israel.

Sharaa interviewed in the Saudi newspaper Ashraq Al Awsat said Iraq's proposal to link "all situations of occupation" in the Middle East is a "serious matter."

"Iraq in this way gives Israel

(Continued on page 5)

Opposition says Sabahs losing support

LONDON (R) — Kuwaiti opposition leaders, united with the ousted ruling family in wanting to rid their homeland of Iraqi troops, are now openly criticising the all-dominant Al Sabahs.

They and some senior Kuwaiti officials say the Al Sabahs, Kuwait's most powerful family since 1756, are losing support among diplomats, financiers and ordinary people by condoning to monopolise positions of influence.

"The pre-invasion mentality has not changed. It is even going from bad to worst," said Ahmad Al Khatib, one of the most prominent leaders of the Kuwaiti opposition.

"By showing that everything belonged to Al Sabah household, they are undermining the sympathy we have been enjoying since the invasion," he told Reuters in an interview at his London home Saturday.

"People who have been sitting on the fence before the crisis and considered loyal to Al Sabahs are now becoming openly critical," one senior Kuwaiti official said.

The opposition, which wants a return to democracy in Kuwait after any Iraqi withdrawal, is planning to attend a meeting of up to 1,000 prominent Kuwaitis next Saturday in the Saudi Arabian mountain resort of Taif.

The ruling family's opponents, who have fiercely opposed the Iraqi invasion and rejected approaches from President Saddam Hussein, say Baghdad has failed to recruit a single Kuwaiti to its side.

But the opposition leaders say the ousted emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has to show he is a credible leader by working under the 1962 post-independence constitution that allows political freedom and an elected assembly.

The emir dissolved parliament at the height of the 1980-88 and held elections earlier this year for an assembly with restricted powers and including a large number of appointees. The opposition boycotted the new assembly.

Opposition leaders say that since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait they have been completely ignored by the emirate's exiled government despite repeated calls for national unity.

Khatib and others say members of the Al Sabah family who have fled Kuwait since Iraq's invasion have taken over the running of diplomatic missions and financial institutions abroad.

Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmad Al Sabah, minister at the emir's court and the younger brother of the emir, was now effectively running the Kuwaiti embassy in London, they said.

Several executives at the London-based Kuwait Investment Office, which handles much of the country's \$100 billion funds abroad, were now taking orders from Sheikh Fahd Al Mohammad Al Sabah and Sheikh Duaij Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah, they added.

"You can't have a credible government whose foreign, finance, defence, interior ministers are all from the (Al Sabah) family," said Abdullah Al Ghanem, a former electricity minister and now an opposition leader.

"The government of Kuwait's pre-invasion central bank and even the head of the slaughterhouse was an Al Sabah," he said.

The opposition leaders do not oppose the emir as such and say there have been no contacts with third countries on finding an alternative to him.

"We are not against the emir as a legitimate leader, but we are opposed to the way the Sabahs are imposing their will on everything," Khatib said.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah called the four-day Taif meeting, inviting up to 1,000 Al Sabahs, cabinet ministers and prominent Kuwaitis living in exile.

The opposition leaders said they would press for more power-sharing.

Fahd, Kaifu agree on need for political solution in Gulf

JDDAH (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Sunday ended a two-day visit, saying a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis remains a necessity, an aide reported.

The spokesman, Shigeo Takaneke, disclosed that King Fahd urged Tokyo to spread its financial assistance to countries hit by the U.N.-imposed economic blockade of Iraq to include others like Syria and Bangladesh. "The two sides have agreed that the Gulf crisis should be solved in a peaceful manner and they pledged to work towards that end," the spokesman told reporters after the overnight meeting between Fahd and Kaifu.

He said Japan reiterated its support for the measures adopted by Saudi Arabia to defend itself and reaffirmed its position, calling for a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the toppled royal family and the release of all foreigners detained by the Iraqis after the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Fahd expressed Saudi appreciation for Japan's support, the spokesman said.

The official Saudi Press Agency reported the meeting, but gave no details on the talks.

Kaifu is on his first trip to the Middle East and has also visited Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

Diplomatic sources said that he was exchanging views on how

Japan could help produce a political settlement to the Gulf crisis. Kaifu has also referred in press statements to a new world order after the Gulf crisis is solved in which his country was keen to play a role.

"Because Japan is determined to play an effective role in the building of this system, it will do its utmost to resolve the Gulf crisis," Kaifu stated in a statement published in Saudi papers before his arrival Saturday. Apart from its diplomatic role, Japan has announced a contribution of \$2 billion in support of the multi-national military force in Saudi Arabia and another \$2 billion to the countries worst affected by the economic blockade in Iraq.

Takaneke said that Japan may consider expanding its assistance to other affected countries. But he noted this might be done later when Japan increases the amount it has pledged.

Egypt, Jordan and Turkey have been the main recipients of Tokyo's financial assistance so far.

While in Jordan, Kaifu met with Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan. His spokesman confirmed that the meeting failed because the two sides stood firmly to their positions.

"We couldn't reach a deal regarding the release of the 200 Japanese living in Iraq so we called for the release of all fore-

igners including the Japanese," he said.

A similar number of Japanese were stranded in Kuwait, he said. "In the light of this tour, the prime minister is sure that what he's been doing is right," the spokesman added.

The Gulf crisis and developing bilateral relations were also the focus of talks between Kaifu and Crown Prince Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Commander of Saudi Arabia's Paramilitary National Guard.

Kaifu met separately before his departure Sunday with the Saudi oil, finance and industry ministers.

The spokesman said the two countries were keen to further consolidate bilateral ties but denied that the question of Saudi oil supplies to Japan was discussed. Japan, which draws the bulk of its oil needs from the Middle East, is Saudi Arabia's second major trading partner after the United States.

Japanese exports to the kingdom last year were more than \$2.7 billion against imports of about \$7 billion.

Saudi Arabia's exports to Japan consist mainly of crude oil and petroleum products.

Kaifu left Saudi Arabia in the afternoon for Oman where he was to hold a late night meeting with Sultan Qaboos in the province of Salalah on the Arabian Sea.

Iranian envoy said in Beirut to finalise hostage release

BEIRUT (AP) — An Iranian envoy has arrived in Beirut to finalise preparations for the release of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite "in the next few days," the Al Diyar daily said Sunday.

The conservative newspaper said the unnamed official flew into the city's international airport in the "past few hours," carrying an Algerian passport.

The report, attributed to unidentified reliable sources, said: "Secret talks have been held in the last two months and resulted in agreement on the release operation as well as the final touches and details."

The envoy was assigned to "supervise implementation of the release operation's final phase," the daily reported.

Lebanon's leading newspaper, the independent Al Nahar daily, said Saturday that Waite was expected to be released next week.

"The release of a number of foreign hostages held in Lebanon, topped by ... Terry Waite, is possible next week," Al Nahar said.

It is widely respected for its accurate reporting. But Al Diyar is not known to have had any special insight into the hostage issue.

Al Diyar said that another un-

identified "Iranian personality" may have visited London recently because "understanding has been reached on concluding a number of economic and other agreements" with Tehran.

Britain and Iran restored diplomatic relations Sept. 27 after a 19-month break triggered by the publication of Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses" which many Muslims say blasphemes Islam.

Al Diyar said that under the agreement for Waite's release, the British government was expected to "express its good intentions by showing Salman Rushdie on television clearly apologising for what his ... novel included and stressing that he did not mean to hurt Muslims' feelings."

Waite's release was expected to be "the preface to releasing all British hostages in Lebanon," the daily said.

The other missing Britons are journalist John McCarthy, World War II flying ace Jack Mann and writer Alec Collett.

McCarthy, 33, was kidnapped April 17, 1986, as he drove to Beirut airport to catch a flight to London.

Mann, 76, was kidnapped in west Beirut May 12, 1989.

Collett, a New York-based writer, was kidnapped March 25,

1985, while on assignment in Lebanon for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

The Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims claimed April 23, 1986, that it hanged Collett in retaliation for Britain's support of U.S. air raids on Libya earlier that month.

The group released a videotape purportedly showing Collett dangling from a scaffold. No body has been produced, but British officials believe Collett is dead.

Al Diyar said the agreement to release Waite involved a \$10 million "fee to the forces" who kidnapped him.

Waite, 51, disappeared Jan. 20, 1987, after leaving his hotel in west Beirut for a rendezvous with representatives of Islamic Jihad, a pro-Iranian faction which holds American hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland.

No group has claimed to have kidnapped Waite. But a former hostage, Irishman Brian Keenan, said after he was released by captors in August that Waite was held with him for a while.

Anderson, 42, is the longest held foreign hostage in Lebanon. The chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, he was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

The other missing Westerners are four Americans, two West Germans and an Italian.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran puts MIG-29s into service

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Sunday it had put advanced MIG-29 fighter-bombers, newly acquired from the Soviet Union, into service to defend its skies. Tehran Radio said senior military officials inspected the aircraft, ground support facilities and electronics classes for training technicians at an unspecified Iranian air base. Iranian Television first showed the planes two weeks ago. Iran concluded agreements on defence cooperation with the Soviet Union, the main armorer of Iraq during the 1980-88 Gulf war, during a visit to Moscow by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in June 1989. The Iranian air force is equipped with U.S.-made F-4, F-5 and F-14 combat planes bought by the late Shah before he was toppled by the 1979 revolution.

Gulf crisis will affect British poll date

LONDON (R) — Ruling Conservative Party chairman Kenneth Baker said Sunday the Gulf crisis would influence the timing of Britain's next general election, due by mid-1992. "There are lots of factors affecting the date of the next election. One of the most important events is the Gulf crisis," Baker said on television. Asked when the conservatives might call an election, he added: "There is considerable uncertainty. What I have said ever since I became chairman is that one should never exclude the possibility of 1992." Was 1991 therefore excluded? "Of course not," he replied.

U.S. issues new travel warnings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department advised U.S. citizens Saturday to avoid travelling to the Israeli-occupied territories because of "recurrent disturbances and increased tensions" in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The department also warned travellers to the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa of possible anti-American demonstrations arising from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "Travellers and residents throughout the region should exercise caution and contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to register their presence and receive information on the local situation," the warning said. The pair of warnings marked the second time in a week — and the third time since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2 — that the State Department has warned Americans against travelling in regions because of Gulf tensions. The separate travel warning on the occupied territories said Middle East events "have sparked anti-American sentiments and threats in the territories." The department said there have been "disturbances" in Arab Jerusalem and warned Americans planning to travel there to check with the American consulate for an update on conditions. Security has been tightened in the occupied territories and the State Department warned that tourists may be subject to strict and lengthy searches. The department also noted Israel is distributing gas masks to citizens starting Oct. 14. "Americans should take this into account in planning to visit Israel," the travel warning said.

Mubarak orders 1,900 prisoners freed

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered the release Sunday of about 1,900 prisoners from Egyptian jails, security sources said. The sources said the prisoners, pardoned by Mubarak to mark anniversary of the 1973 war, were all freed from various prisons Sunday. The inmates, including 28 women, were mostly convicted of forgery, bribery and murder, and had completed at least half their prison sentences, they added. The amnesty did not include people imprisoned for armed robbery, fraud, sexual assault or drug abuse.

Bomb kills Turkish woman politician

ISTANBUL (R) — A woman politician from Turkey's main opposition party has been killed by a parcel bomb sent by Islamic fundamentalist extremists angry at her opposition to women wearing veils, police said. Bahriye Ukok, 64, of the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), died in hospital late Saturday shortly after the bomb exploded in her hands at her Ankara home. Police said an outlawed extremist fundamentalist group called Islamic Movement claimed responsibility for the killing in calls to Turkish newspapers.

Somalia to adopt liberal constitution

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia will adopt a more liberal constitution and introduce laws on electoral reform, the government announced Sunday. An official statement said a nationwide referendum to approve the new constitution and multi-party elections would be held within 12 months "if conditions in the country will permit." The move marked a policy shift for President Mohammed Siad Barre, who seized power in a coup in 1969. Somalia announced in July that multi-party elections would be held on Feb. 1, 1991, but political opponents said they were sceptical the president was prepared to relinquish power.

Syria to open embassy in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Syria will open an embassy in Bahrain soon in a sign of closer diplomatic relations between the two Arab countries. Bahrain's daily Al Ayam said Sunday. The usually reliable newspaper gave no source for its brief report. Syria and Bahrain have full diplomatic links but at present the Syrian embassy in Qatar covers Bahrain.

Kuwaiti 'refugees' live in guarded luxury

By Mort Rosenblum

TAIF (AP) — The toppled government of Kuwait, shielded by Saudi guards and served by an army of room service waiters, meets regularly on the affairs of a state Iraq says no longer exists.

Its cabinet room is a plushly appointed suite in the Al Hada Sheraton, a mountaintop resort which is out of business as a hotel for an unknown period.

Its records and reports, all of the apparatus of displaced rulers struggling to regain their emirate while keeping it together from a distance, are stuffed in dressers, bedrooms and broom closets.

In stark contrast to foreign refugees from Kuwait stranded in the Jordanian desert, Kuwaiti officials pad about in cooled air on thick carpets, soothed by plaintive Arabic melodies from muzak speakers.

On a recent afternoon, a Lebanese merchant lugged in a samsonite case full of gold Swiss watches for idle customers. It was clear that time hung heavily on their hands.

Men in snowy white Arab headgear and shirt-gowns float wraith-like about the quiet corridors. In between flurries of activity, they sip greenish coffee, dine elaborately or nap at length.

About 300 Kuwaitis and family members live in bungalows on the grounds. Unruly children scamper about colourful gardens inside high fences. Offices and staff rooms are in the seven-storey main building.

Hotel shops are closed except for the Bangladeshi scented man in the lobby. In flasks of "1001 Nights," he sells 500 aromas, along with fragrant resins, exotic wood chips and Paris perfumes.

"Try this," he said, slapping a browner's band with pungent oil. "It's called 'queen of the night'."

Not even Saudi police cars get past the barrier at the front gate without a coded pass and a rigor-

ous check. Authorised visitors surrender their passports for a green badge which, in turn, is traded for a pink badge.

A thorough but good-natured security chief named Mobammad jokes with foreigners who hand over their papers that they will be allowed to leave whenever they wish.

Once inside, visitors are showered in courtly hospitality and prodded for news.

In a recent interview, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah, the toppled crown prince and prime minister, punctuated a reporter's queries with questions of his own.

Seven neat stacks of regional newspapers lay at anyone's disposal in the lobby. But most information filters in slowly from the dwindling number of Kuwaiti refugees who make it out of their country.

"He just found out three days ago that his brother was carried off to Baghdad to work as a technician for the Iraqi air force, one Kuwaiti said, pointing to a colleague. "I don't think he wants to talk about it."

The information ministry is on the first floor, obvious from the stacks of poster-sized photos in the hallway.

One is the celebrated scene of Saddam Hussein patting a British boy. Next to it, a poster shows Adolf Hitler caressing a pleased German youth of similar age.

Nearby, several dozen different photos of atrocities and damage to Kuwait are piled high on a counter. But there are few takers.

After a month in the hotel, spirits are still high, assured Hamad Jabal Al Sabah, a ministry official and son of the minister. "Maybe we'll be back in Kuwait by the end of the month."

But some others seemed dubious. More than one Kuwaiti has noted the irony in the hotel house ad displayed in each of the elevators: "You'll love the life at the Sheraton."

Efforts under way to resume Sudan relief flights

KHARTOUM (AP) — Contacts are still under way with the Sudanese government for resumption of relief flights to rebel-held areas in south Sudan despite a decision to lift the ban on such flights, a U.N. relief official said Saturday.

Trover Page, director of the World Food Programme (WFP) and representative of the U.N. secretary-general, told the Associated Press meanwhile that he was "immensely satisfied" with a decision by the Sudanese government to lift the ban.

He termed the decision "extremely good news" but said that "we are still in contact with the authorities for the resumption of flights."

Asked in comment on the figures released by the United Nations in New York that famine threatens up to one-fifth of Sudan's 25 million people, Page said:

"Much of the Sudan is affected... it is much more than that... much of Sudan faces food scarcity at the time."

Page said he would not call it famine but "serious food shortage."

He said the situation was now serious but so-called production in eastern Sudan was "encouraging" and that the government's decision to replace cash crop with sorghum shows its seriousness in trying to contain the situation in the rain-fed areas in western and some parts of central Sudan.

He expressed satisfaction with "the extremely responsible" measures taken by the Sudanese government to deal with the difficult situation it faces.

Hundreds of Kuwaitis at border

KHAFJIL, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Several hundred Kuwaiti refugees arrived at this border crossing Sunday, part of a growing exodus as Iraq again relaxed its restrictions on Kuwaitis leaving the country.

Friday's border opening came after more intensified night-time searches in Kuwait City, according to refugees, prompting many of them to leave out of fear.

Iraqi troops were confiscating all identification papers in Kuwait, the refugees reported.

That raised Saudi fears that the Iraqis were planning to attempt to infiltrate "agents" into the kingdom, where a U.S.-led multinational force of more than 200,000 has gathered to confront Iraq.

The new refugee influx is the largest since mid-September, when 7,000 Kuwaitis poured through in a three-day frenzy.

Iraq's motive in opening the border point was unclear.

"Nobody really seems to know why," one Western diplomat monitoring the flow told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

But those crossing said they suspected Iraq has allowing peo-

ple to leave for several reasons, including its programme of turning the city into an armed camp, isolating the resistance movement and resettling Iraqis in Kuwait.

About 1,000 people have arrived here since Friday, most lacking any identification, border officials said.

Up to 700 people, most of them women and children, are camped inside the border crossing awaiting confirmation of their identities by Saudi officials and the Saudi-based toppled Kuwaiti government.

Saudi Arabia has sharply increased security at the crossing here. Arriving cars pass through a gauntlet of staggered metre-square cement blocks and reporters are not allowed to circulate at the crossing.

There are an estimated 300,000 Kuwaiti refugees in the Saudi kingdom and neighbouring Gulf states out of a pre-invasion native population of 570,000.

Those arriving said Iraqi troops at the border were using the same tactics as in September to determine who would cross — grabbing some men under the age of 40 and allowing others to cross.

Refugees claim young men are

being sent back for drafting into the Iraqi military.

The seizure of young men at the border had dried up the flow of refugees in September.

One group of six young Kuwaiti men said Sunday that they escaped across the desert because they feared they would be seized on the road. They told the AP that Iraqi soldiers had opened fire on their car.

The men were later brought to the border for processing.

The border opening was announced via the media in Kuwait, refugees said.

Iraqi troops have been allowing only about 30 cars an hour to leave in the morning and mid-afternoon only.

Issa Al Nasrallah, a health ministry employee who fled with his wife and four children, said that many people in Kuwait thought Iraq was preparing for combat there soon.

"I think the Iraqis might try to put tanks and artillery between the houses so the houses would be an obstruction" in case of fighting in Kuwait, said Nasrallah, 41.

PLO: Arabs would not fight Iraqis

TUNIS (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commander predicted Sunday that Arab troops in the U.S.-dominated multinational force in Saudi Arabia would switch sides if U.S. forces attacked Iraq.

Major General Mohammad Jihad, a member of the leadership of the Fateh group, told Reuters in an interview:

"We are confident that the Egyptian, Syrian and Moroccan will stand alongside the Iraqi army if Iraq is attacked by the Americans because the Arab and the Muslim will stand by his Muslim Arab brother."

General Jihad, also a member of the high command of the Fateh movement's Asifa forces, said Syrian, Egyptian and Moroccan forces were "cannon fodder" to take the first blow if Iraq responded to an American attack.

"They are there so that it would be as if the fighting was between Arabs and Arabs or Muslims and Muslims," he added.

"We beseech these forces to stand by the Iraqi army in the event of aggression," he said.

Arab troops have been deployed in a 80-kilometre strip along the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. The U.S. troops which dominate the multinational force are dug in behind them.

The general said Iraq had the means to inflict heavy losses on U.S. troops in a war and could hit Israel with medium-range missiles and its air force.

Western military specialists say U.S. forces in the Gulf would make a preemptive strike against Iraq's missiles if the Iraqis were spotted loading and fuelling

them. Few Iraqi planes could leave Iraqi air space with impunity, they say.

But Jihad said: "I reckon Iraq would not be a target as the Egyptian air force was in 1967. Iraq has the means to avoid this strike." In the Middle East war of June 1967, Israel destroyed Egypt's warplanes on the ground in the first hours of fighting.

"The United States can start the war but it cannot stop it because the Arab people will support Iraq and strike at American interests," the general said.

Jihad accused Israel and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak of inciting Washington to go to war in the belief that they would benefit. "This is against the interests of the peoples of the United States and Europe," he added.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:45 Local programmes
16:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

16:00 Documentary
16:10 News in French
16:15 Weekly Sport magazine
16:20 News in Hebrew
16:45 Varieties
16:50 Sharon's Deal
16:55 News in English
17:00 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

04:12 Fajr
05:29 (Sunrise) Dhuh
11:23 Dhuhr
14:43 Asr
17:17 Maghrib
18:34 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidia

Tel. 510740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383
628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 18 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 34
Deserts 17 / 33

JORDAN VALLEY

22 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Khalil 896294
Dr. Salah Al Usoud 649028
Dr. Hisham Abu Argoub 893122
Dr. Mohammad Al Shalib 630807
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Saloun pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

DEBID:

Dr. Ali Shouqri (—)
Al Srair pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Rescue 630441
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 92, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 669131
Completing 848445
Al-Musharafa Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abadi 6661757
Al-Abdi, Abadi 6641646
Italian, Al-Mubajrec 7751126
Al-Badri, J. Astrafich 7751126
Army, Marks 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674135

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Albahi Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848445
Army, Marks 8916115
The Islamic, Abadi 6661757
Al-Abdi, Abadi 6641646
Italian, Al-Mubajrec 7751126
Al-Badri, J. Astrafich 7751126
Army, Marks 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674135

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

Princess Basma visits charity society

ZARQA (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday visited the Islamic Charitable Cultural Society in Zarqa and took part in a special celebration marking the "Arab Child Week," an annual function observed in Jordan in October each year.

The Princess first opened a charity bazaar in which several local societies took part, displaying handicrafts like embroideries, dresses, paintings and artificial flowers as well as popular sweets and other items.

The Princess later watched a puppet show, which was organised by the society to focus attention on child care, and attended a meeting in the society hall where the local director of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), Jazi Al Majali, addressed the audience underlining the need for further efforts to be directed for the care of children.

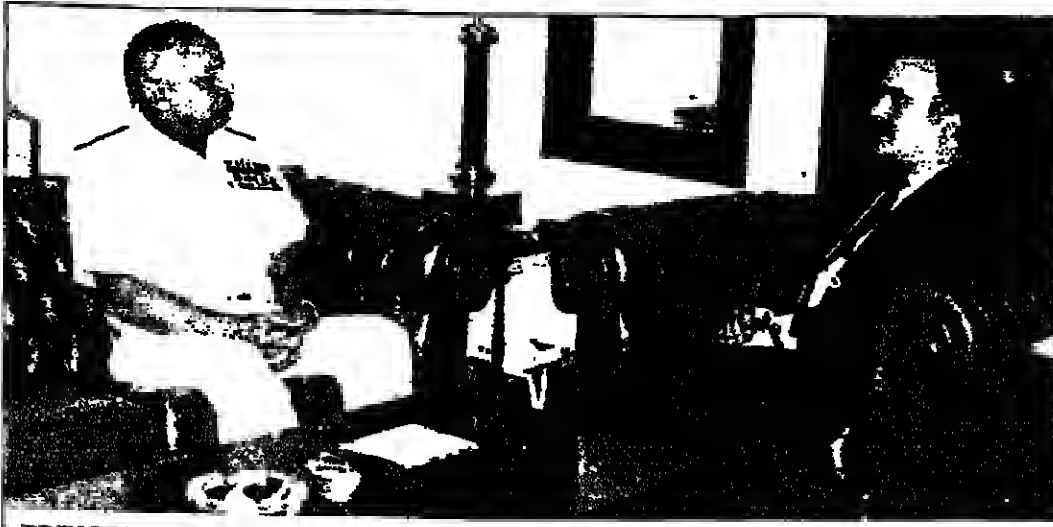
Seminar stresses need to local products, spend less

AMMAN (Petra) — Questions related to raw materials used in the manufacturing process were discussed at a meeting held at the Ministry of Supply attended by Minister Ibrahim Ayoub and president and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The minister and the chamber members emphasised the need for Jordanians to purchase local rather than imported products and to spend less.

UNICEF contributes blankets to evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday took delivery of 5,400 woolen blankets sent as a gift by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to be distributed to evacuees crossing into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.



PRINCE HASSAN RECEIVES PAKISTANI COMMANDER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received at the Royal Court visiting Pakistani Chief of Staff Iftikhar Sirohi and an accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan and the Pakistani military attaché in Amman. Earlier Sunday, Gen. Sirohi and the accompanying delegation visited the armed forces

headquarters, where they were briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The briefing was attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Faizi Abu Taleb. The Pakistani chief of staff also visited the martyr's monument and the Royal Jordanian Airforce headquarters, where he was received by the Royal Jordanian Airforce commander, Gen. Sirohi and the accompanying delegation then visited the 12th Royal Mechanised Division.

World leaders try to steal Saddam's appeal on Palestinians

By Alistair Lyon Reuters

AMMAN — World leaders determined to reverse Iraq's seizure of Kuwait are trying to steal Saddam Hussein's thunder by linking the Gulf crisis, however obliquely, with the plight of the Palestinians.

"Foreign ministries are telling their governments it's time to look into the Palestine question and see what our past neglect of it has led to — a brutal dictator becoming a hero to the Arab masses," one Western diplomat said.

In a flurry of well-publicised statements in the last few weeks, French, Soviet, British and American leaders have spoken of the need to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional problems once the Gulf crisis is settled.

They reject the Iraqi leader's attempt to tie the fate of Kuwait directly with that of the Palestinians and Lebanese, but have clearly noticed the appeal of such a linkage to many Arabs.

"In a situation where Saddam is trying to exploit the Palestinian card it is important that countries with strong, clear policies on the Arab-Israeli conflict should remind the world what they are," a Western diplomat said.

For Jordan and the PLO, whose two leaders met in Amman on Sunday, any prospect that the Gulf crisis could open the way to a general Middle East settlement is welcome.

They are caught between the pro-Iraqi emotions of their

people and awareness that the central Arab cause rests on the principle, sanctified by the United Nations and trampled on by Saddam, that it is inadmissible to acquire territory by force.

"It is encouraging that after weeks of war talk, everyone is looking for a peaceful solution," said a source close to the Amman government. "There is nothing substantive yet, no initiative that everyone accepts, but the climate is changing."

Iraq has declared repeatedly that it will never relinquish Kuwait, which it has proclaimed its 19th province.

But Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said here Friday that if the United Nations forced Israel to quit occupied territories "we would accept the same condition."

The Jordanian source said Ramadan's assurances that Iraq accepted international legitimacy had set a new tone. Ramadan said the four-stage peace plan set out by President Francois Mitterrand last month could be built on.

The other stages call for international guarantees for the withdrawal of foreign military forces and for the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty, Arab and international efforts to resolve other Middle East problems, and region-wide arms cutbacks.

A Palestinian political scientist, As'ad Abdul Rahman, believes Iraq's position is more flexible than it appears.

"But the Iraqis reject the idea of making concessions in

advance of any dialogue. They want everything to be discussed at the negotiating table," he said.

The United States and its Western allies are concerned that talk of a negotiated solution might encourage Saddam to believe that he can avoid complying with U.N. Security Council demands to quit Kuwait and free all foreigners unconditionally.

"We feel the best way to change Saddam's mind is to make him realise the world is lined up against him," a Western diplomat said. "We don't like anything that undermines the impression that the world means business."

"But there are seeds in the Mitterrand proposal which might provide a carrot for an Iraqi withdrawal in a way which does not provide an obvious reward for the aggressor," he said.

Iraq's foes may believe the Gulf crisis has opened new prospects for Middle East peacemaking in a post-cold war world, but they do not want Saddam to get the credit for any breakthrough.

"Any face-saving formula which allowed the Iraqi leader to leave Kuwait with his army and prestige in the Arab World intact would pose a dilemma for the powers arrayed against him."

"There would be an argument between the hawks to do to destroy him and his military machine and those who would say 'We've done what we set out for, so let's go home' — a diplomat said.

Conservation measures hailed by economists but criticised by some

AMMAN (J.T.) — A series of energy conservation measures announced by the government Saturday evening were hailed by economists, heads of organisations and scientists as a step in the right direction and coming in time to help Jordan deal with the economic problems it is now facing as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the government's decision to allow government offices to work five days a week only was bound to save the country some 3,550 tonnes of fuel needed to produce electricity.

This, he said, accounts for nearly 1.5 per cent of the total fuel consumption in the Kingdom and six per cent of the total electricity consumption.

The Cabinet decided that government departments should have a two-day weekend to cut down on energy and fuel used in the buildings and transport. It also decided that commercial businesses should close at 7 p.m. and street lighting must be switched off at 5 a.m.

"These measures would save

up to \$500,000 monthly in addition to fuel used for transporting employees to and from work," Arafah said.

He said that JEA would, in the coming days, intensify a public awareness campaign on rationing fuel and energy consumption in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran said that the measures were intended to reduce the country's consumption of electricity, gasoline and diesel oil, a procedure followed by many industrialised nations.

"The new measures are flexible and the government will study their results and the citizens' reaction and applications; should they prove to be effective they will be adopted permanently or otherwise they will be modified," Badran said.

"Indeed these measures should mark the beginning of other series of measures which will not only help Jordan reduce spending and conserve energy but bring about a change in citizens' behavioural patterns, directing society towards more production and less spending," Badran added.

A noted Jordanian economist said that the Kingdom currently consumes 22 million barrels of crude oil annually, worth some \$700 million, absorbing all Jordan's income from the sale of its phosphate, potash and fertiliser.

"The new measures are therefore beneficial since Jordan is going through very difficult circumstances," said Jawad Al Anani in an interview with Petra. In his view, government employees will benefit from the extra day off which will enable them to take care of their homes or, if they live outside the capital, to farm a piece of land to produce food.

Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Hani Al Mulqi said that by closing their businesses early in the evening merchants and store keepers would be saving electric power used in lighting and airconditioning. Besides, he said, the fewer cars on the streets in the evening, the less congestion and the less fuel consumption.

Another economist, Fahd Al Fanek, said that the measures were found necessary in view of the present difficult circumstances. He said it would be difficult

to imagine gasoline rates remaining the same if the present crisis continued. Fanek said that Jordan has 300,000 cars consuming nearly \$1 million worth of fuel every day.

"By raising the fuel prices, the government would be forcing the public to reduce the use of cars and spend less fuel," said Fanek.

Grocers and merchants though voiced dissatisfaction with the government's decision and some said that the early closure would not only reduce income, adversely affecting the income tax collection, but would also deprive many citizens of buying their needs in the evening.

Ahmad Ghneim, member of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, said he believed that the present stage required from the Jordanian industry and the private sector to double their efforts and increase their work not reduce it. He said that less production is a waste of energy and an additional cost for the consumers.

Ghneim said that Jordan, at this stage, requires more production so that it can increase exports and earn more income.

Egyptian official thanks Jordan for evacuee aid

AMMAN (Petra) — The Egyptian Ministry of Transport's First Under-Secretary Maj. Gen. Hani Husni, currently on a visit to Jordan, expressed gratitude to the Jordanian government for its efforts to repatriate more than 325,000 Egyptians who had arrived here from Kuwait and Iraq.

In an apparent reference to claims by some Egyptian newspapers that Egyptian evacuees were suffering in Jordan, Husni said the newspapers do not necessarily express the opinion or the position of the Egyptian government on this subject.

He noted that the services Jordan had rendered to the Egyptian evacuees reflected Jordan's genuine brotherly feelings. Asked if Egyptians might go back to Kuwait and Iraq, he said it was up to them to decide, "however, we do not know if any of them will return."

Ministry of Interior's Secretary-General Salameh Hammad, chairman of the Evacuees Welfare Committee, said that Jordan had done its best to

Two-day weekend does not apply to municipal councils

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day weekend, as decided by the Cabinet for government departments and other public organisations, is not applicable to municipal or village councils, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmli.

The minister told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the municipal and village councils were to be considered as private organisations, enjoying independent status financially and administratively, and therefore they are not subject to the new government system as announced Saturday night following a regular Cabinet session.

He said that these councils were bound to offer services to the public daily and around the clock. The Cabinet announced a series of energy conservation measures Saturday night, including the two-day weekend for all government offices, and said that the system would go into effect as of Saturday Oct. 13, 1990.

According to the government statement, office hours will start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. Some departments whose nature of duty is not fixed and whose office workers normally carry out work in shifts, like radio and television, government hospitals, post office, Public Security, make an exception from this programme.

However complaints were aired through calls in a radio programme Sunday, with people

expressing dissatisfaction with the new arrangement which would prevent them from picking up their children from school.

One government official said: "In the old system I used to pick up my children at school normally at around 2 p.m., shortly after the government office close at 2 p.m., but now they will either have to wait until 3:15 or beyond or some other arrangement will have to be made for them."

Other government employees complained in the radio programme that under the new system office hours would increase by one and a half hours weekly. Apart from government offices, the Cabinet's statement said that all commercial establishments should close at 7 p.m., but pharmacies, bakeries, clinics and gas stations were exempt from the new regulations.

Restaurants, cafes, clubs and wedding halls and other entertainment establishments as well as cinemas should close by 11 p.m., the statement said. It said that street lighting will be switched off at 5 a.m.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran called in a separate statement later on all citizens to cooperate with the government in saving energy. The Cabinet's statement said the adherence to the measures which, it said, were warranted by the emergency situation in the Kingdom will be strictly observed and monitored to assess their impact in terms of energy saving.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi parliamentarians to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iraqi parliamentary delegation arrives here Monday (today) on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian parliamentarians on a proposal by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to hold an extraordinary session for the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU).

GUVS reelects president

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Sunday reelected Abdullah Khatib as president of the union's Executive Board for a two-year term and reelected Fakhri Bilbeisi as vice-president. Father Mousa Qarnash was elected treasurer and Sami Khasawneh secretary. The union's general assembly also reelected the following members to serve on the Executive Board: Asim Ghosch, Anwar Al Hadid, Mohammad Obaidat, Jazi Al Majali, Mohammad Amin Al Kilani, Narat Bitar, Muhsein Habashneh, Hashem Sanafteh and Hussein Uthman. The board will serve a two-year term, starting Oct. 7.

University president honours People's Army

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the University of Jordan Mahmoud Al Samra Sunday expressed appreciation of and pride in efforts exerted by officials who supervised the training process of university students in the People's Army. In a ceremony held to honour the commander and training supervisors of the People's Army Samra and the commander exchanged tokens of gifts. Samra then distributed gifts to the supervisors. The ceremony was attended by the dean of the Student Affairs department and several of the People's Army senior officers.

Jordan TV starts series on women

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Television Wednesday broadcasted the first episode of a thirteen-episode series on preparing women to play an active role in their communities produced by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The programme aims at educating mothers on the role they can play in building integrated and cooperative families, and in enhancing inter-family relations.

JD 1,787,544 collected in revenues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Survey Department collected in September JD 1,787,544 in revenues, compared to JD 2,567,793 during the same month in 1989.

1,858 people, 380 cars ferried to Nuweibeh

AQABA (Petra) — Three ships docked at Aqaba Port Sunday, while four other left for different destinations. Three liners also left the port for Nuweibeh carrying 1,858 passengers and 380 cars. Two of the arriving ships were carrying containers while the third, a Maltese ship, was carrying cars destined to Sudan.

Jordan to seek new markets for produce

AL ARIDAH (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is now turning its attention towards intensifying farming in the Jordan Valley region and will double efforts to produce cereals for local consumption, according to Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arbiyat.

"The Ministry of Agriculture is also trying to find alternative markets for local produce following the ban on Jordan's crops in Saudi Arabia and the difficulties in transporting crops to Gulf states," the minister said at a seminar held here to discuss agricultural problems in the Jordan Valley.

Arabiya told the meeting, which also attended by Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf, that the recent Saudi measures had caused a 25 per cent reduction in Jordan's sales of crops in the past two months.

Khalaf, said that his ministry was maintaining close coordination with Jordan Valley farmers in the process of water distribution. "The ministry continually studies complaints raised by local

farmers and finds solutions for them through cooperation with the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA)," said Khalaf.

But he said that JVA could not announce a reduction in the prices of water because water is already subsidised at the rate of nine fils for a cubic metre.

Khalaf said that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation was turning its attention to the treatment of wastewater flowing into King Talal Dam, and also towards enlarging the Kafrein dam to increase its storage capacity.

A working paper submitted by the local farmers was discussed at the seminar. It dealt with problems obstructing the marketing of local crops during the present season in the Gulf region and abroad.

The paper also touched on processing fruit and vegetables worth JD 23 million and a loan to farmers.

The local farmers demanded that premiums and interests on these loans be rescheduled and that farmers be offered additional facilities.

Workshop to discuss peace and dangers of war

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura Sunday opened a three-day workshop on the international humanitarian appeal for peace organised by the JNRCS in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Addressing the workshop, Abu Qoura outlined the dangers of war and the ensuing financial and human losses. Abu Qoura stressed the importance of humanitarian work, saying that it was conducive to peace. He called for mobilising the humanitarian organisations in an effort to contribute to achieving peace.

Participants discussed a working paper on "the international humanitarian alliance for peace" which aims at achieving peace worldwide, with focus on the Gulf region.

The formation of the alliance comes in line with the world campaign launched by the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to protect victims of war.

The alliance aims at ensuring the establishment of peace and stability in the Gulf region through mobilising public opinion against any military confrontation, at alleviating the suffering of people, and at encouraging peaceful initiatives.

Taking part in the workshop are Jordanian and Iraqi experts on international humanitarian law.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarz displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Maha and Ahmad Al Syoud at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by four Palestinian artists depicting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation at the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.

ANNOUNCING

AN EXHIBITION

of fine handicrafts

Bani Hamida

RUGS - QUILTS

As a courtesy of the Sons of Sa'ad Abu Jabr

AT THE ABU JABER ESTATE

(adjacent to KAN ZAMAN)

12-19 October 1990

10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Save the Children Project

Funded by USAID

In cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Jordan Times

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More on Iraq's mind than just withdrawal

THERE IS a chorus of countries still calling on Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait. Such a demand is tantamount to asking Iraq to commit suicide, both militarily and politically. With hundreds of thousands of U.S.-led troops encircling Iraq, there is no way that Iraq could even think of withdrawing without prior agreement on the simultaneous withdrawal of such armies. Uppermost on the minds of Iraqi military strategists would be the fate of Iraq and its defence should its troops be demanded unconditionally withdraw from Kuwaiti territory. Given the declared and undeclared political and military objectives of Washington and its allies in the Gulf crisis which might easily include the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime and the destruction of Iraq's military power, there is no way that Baghdad would accept to put its neck on the line and endanger its very existence without putting up a fight. Under the circumstances, the only sensible thing to do is to negotiate a comprehensive agreement under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council to address mutual security considerations as well as other issues that precipitated the Gulf conflict in the first place.

For this purpose, it would be pertinent to think in terms of a regional conference in which the permanent members of the Security Council would participate in order to conclude a comprehensive accord encompassing all the relevant issues to the crisis. The Iraqi-Kuwaiti territorial dispute, including issues like oil and water rights, would also be on the negotiating table so as to eliminate the deep causes of the conflict at the source level.

Instead of the proliferating rhetoric from both sides of the Gulf equation, all the parties to the conflict must busy themselves with the preparatory work necessary for convening such a conference as a matter of highest priority. If necessary a follow-up Security Council resolution could be adopted for this purpose calling for the convening of such a regional conference. Otherwise, the seeds of the conflict in the Gulf would continue to grow until another moment presents itself for yet another action-reaction scenario in which the world may not be as capable as it is today to avoid a major conflagration.

Once such a regional conference concludes its deliberations and arrives at a balanced and just comprehensive accord between all the immediate parties, a phased implementation scheme of such an agreement would be put into effect under the supervision and guarantees of the United Nations. This is one reasonable way, we think, to deal with the Gulf conflict and a viable option to realise an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

American Secretary of State James Baker has called on Iraq to join what he termed the "civilised world" by destroying its chemical and biological weapons, but has failed to call on Israel to do the same thing. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Sunday. If anything, this advice should be first directed to the American administration because of the vast arsenal of nuclear and other types of weapons under its disposal, the paper said. Iraq has already announced its readiness to dispose of its arsenal of weapons of destruction provided that Israel did the same thing, but Baker tends to forget this fact, and issues a statement without giving any consideration to the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands and the failure on the part of the Western alliance to solve the Arab-Israeli issue, the paper continued. It said that Baker has to remember that it is the United States which has massed troops and planted mines in the deserts of Saudi Arabia, and is making ready to launch aggression with all types of weapons on Iraq. Baker has to remember well that Israel has a vast arsenal of nuclear weapons ready for use against the Arabs, and continues to hold on to these weapons and to threaten its neighbours whose lands it continues to occupy, the paper said. The paper said that the U.S. administration is invited to become a useful member of the civilised world community, not by issuing advice or promises, but rather through ending its threats and refraining from hostile actions against the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Sunday bitterly criticised the U.N. Security Council for adopting a double standard system in dealing with world issues. Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the council has taken eight resolutions, three of them in one week, and all these resolutions were said to have been directed towards ending Iraq's occupation of Kuwait which is now two months old, said the paper. But, it pointed out that a Yemeni request to the council to discuss the Arab-Israeli issue and the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, is being delayed on purpose by the council members who have clearly fallen under the influence of the U.S. administration and its policies. The paper said that the world is fed up with Washington's empty slogans about a new world order and human rights when it is practising otherwise, and forcing the U.N. Security Council to adopt a double standard attitude, serving the interests of the Western alliance. The paper asked how could the Arabs and other nations of the world give credibility to Washington's statements and slogans about peace, justice and human rights as they watch discrimination against the Arabs when it comes to their issue with Israel that has been occupying their land for 23 years. The West in general and the United States in particular have been witnessing and condoning Israel's disregard to Security Council resolutions, and despite that they pursue a hypocritical policy to deceive the world.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

West needs to show even-handedness

GRANTED that the issues of fact related to the Arab-Israeli conflict on one hand and the Gulf crisis on the other are different, no one can suggest that the issues of law applicable to the two situations are in any way distinguishable. The two cases involve the issues of law related to the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and illegal annexations. Yet the Arab World notes that whereas the West orchestrated nine U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis in a span of eight weeks, it did not see fit to accord the Palestinian case and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict except a handful of resolutions in the course of the last two decades, none of which had any teeth.

This is where the Arab grievance lies and this is where Washington and its immediate allies need to act to offset this naked discrimination in favour of their oil interests instead of the fundamental human interests involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Time is still propitious to do something about the imbalance in the Western world's perspective in these matters. And to prove their even-handedness, the West may contemplate the an immediate remedial action by adopting follow up resolutions to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the cornerstones of any peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in the same manner and with the speed that they have demonstrated in the Kuwaiti situation. The Arabs certainly do not ask for once a week resolutions, because that would be utterly ridiculous, but rather periodic resolutions to substantiate the west's interest in and concern for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Some of these envisaged

periodic U.N. Security Council resolutions would reinforce the call for a U.N.-sponsored international conference to which all the parties to the Middle East conflict would be invited within a reasonable time to be determined before hand. There would be a need to incorporate some language in any such resolutions warning all the parties that the U.N. Security Council would consider taking additional measures against any party that refuses to participate in good faith in any such international conference. If any party continues to defy the wish of the U.N. Security Council by frustrating its determination to resolve all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the context of an international conference, then the Security Council would be duty bound to apply sanctions and embargoes of all kinds against any such party be it an Arab or Israeli party.

Since the U.N. Security Council has of late acquired a liking to enforce its resolutions by resorting first to economic pressures in the form of land, sea and air embargoes, the Arab side is impatiently waiting for it to dish out similar measures against any Middle Eastern party that flouts its will to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all.

Imagine, if you will, that Israel gets a hint even at this early stage that the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are conducting informal consultations with a view to apply sanctions on Israel if it continues to frustrate all peaceful efforts to enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. This is the kind of signal that the Arab World, including Iraq, is still waiting for from the West and the permanent members of the Security Council as evidence of their good faith and even hand-

edness in dealing with the separable conflicts of the Gulf and the Middle East regions.

The Arab World should expect this policy to be introduced even prior to any Iraqi withdrawal from all or part of Kuwait. Once Washington decides to take such a course, Iraq would be the first to rally its support for it and in the process would become amenable to heading the proliferating U.N. Security Council resolutions on its situation. As a matter of fact, Baghdad would then be affectively denied any justification to refuse to honour the recent Security Council resolutions on the Gulf conflict. In effect, all parties genuinely interested in solving the Kuwaiti situation on the basis of legitimacy and relevant U.N. resolutions would be invited to accommodate the Arab World on this reasonable request forth with by at least showing a readiness to consider the application of sanctions and embargoes on any Middle East party that refuses to participate in good faith in the enforcement of Security Council resolution 242 and 338.

Accordingly instead of Washington keeping on the heat on Baghdad alone by insinuating that it seeks yet another U.N. Security Council resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq, one would expect, even at this late hour, that it is also seeking a follow-up resolution to resolutions 242 and 338 envisaging the application of sanctions and embargoes on any Middle East party that refuses to respect and observe these resolutions by frustrating the decade long efforts to convene an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflicts. What better to show good faith than to act now along these lines and even before Iraq is asked to withdraw from Kuwait.

'Facts' by Prince Bandar — half true, false or not mentioned

By Dr. Hazem Nusselbeh

In this article, Dr. Nusselbeh replies to an open letter the Saudi ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar, addressed to His Majesty King Hussein. The letter appeared in American and British newspapers. This article appeared in the Washington Post of Oct. 6 and the Sunday Times (London) of Oct. 7.

YOUR Excellency: His Majesty King Hussein is precluded by a natural preference for the language of diplomacy and reason over the language of passion and personal denigration from replying himself to the open letter you addressed to him through The Sunday Times last week.

He is also restrained by his wish to respect the agreement made between his grandfather King Abdullah, and your distinguished grandfather, King Abdul Aziz Al Saud, to bury the memory of the circumstances in which the dynasty of Al Saud replaced the Hashemite family as sovereigns of the Hejaz and custodians of the holy places.

Your letter, inspired by King Hussein's broadcast through the CNN channel to the American public, was perhaps a personal initiative of your own rather than a decision by your government to open an ill-advised and unwarranted campaign against King Hussein.

Nevertheless, it calls for a reply because of the wide publicity it has received on both sides of the Atlantic and because while it claims to present "facts" some of those facts are only half true, or not true, and there are other facts that have found no mention at all.

King Hussein did not say that the holy places in Saudi Arabia had been desecrated by what you call friendly forces, and out of discretion — a quality you would be wise to learn from him — he did not mention the occasion when your government called in French forces to evict, not foreigners, but your own citizens from the precincts of the Holy Kaaba. What he did say was that the presence of

non-Arab and non-Muslim forces in Saudi Arabia united secular nationalism and religious conservatism against it, which might, in the event of war, "result in incalculably grave consequences involving Arabs and Muslims the world over."

He therefore advocated that these forces should be withdrawn "within the shortest possible period of time." It is difficult to understand why you, as the representative of your government, should object to that, unless you want these foreign forces to prolong their presence beyond the immediate crisis.

You make the extraordinary statement that King Hussein was responsible for the Palestinian homeland on the West Bank from 1948-67, and you ask why he did not give Palestinians their rights and statehood. King Hussein accorded to the throne in 1953. And there was no Palestine homeland on the West Bank. The territories of Palestine which remained in Arab hands after 1948 and 1949 joined the Kingdom of Transjordan at the request of the Palestinians themselves, who did not want to consecrate partition by accepting a Palestinian state on only part of their land. Their homeland is Palestine, not the West Bank.

Ynn sarcastically remark that "your whole country was created by the... colonial British," as if any country in the Arabian peninsula achieved its present frontiers other than through arrangements made by Great Britain and France during and after the first world war. King Hussein's great-grandfather, Sherif Hussein, favoured a united Arab State in the whole of the peninsula.

Jordan has not opposed the right of any sovereign country to invite troops to aid its defence. The reference you make to 1958, when Jordan called for foreign assistance, came in the context of the cold war. Like some Western statesmen you seek to draw a para-

llel between this crisis and Germany's invasion of neighbouring countries in 1938 and 1939, forgetting that the rise of National Socialism took place against the background of frustration and resentment caused by the Versailles settlement. Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait cannot be correctly described as the sole cause of the crisis; it has its roots in other annexations, other problems created by the international community but left unresolved.

In calling not only for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, but also for a serious international effort to solve the other equally serious problems in the region, King Hussein has consistently put forward a point of view to which the governments of France, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and even the United States of America are gradually coming around. It is difficult to understand in whose interest it is to discredit and denigrate King Hussein's efforts just when they seem to be bearing fruit.

Could it be that the real cause of your outburst against the King is his statement that "as regards all countries and peoples in the region, every encouragement must be given to their governments to ensure their orderly and rapid transformation into democracies recognised as such by any acceptable yardstick in this world, where citizens enjoy equal rights and where human rights are recognised, enjoyed and respected?"

You state that you have lost "the great respect and affection" you had for King Hussein, though you remain true for the Jordanian people. I do not think King Hussein will be unduly upset by what ever change of mind you may have had about his personality. He is quite happy with the solid support he enjoys not only of the Jordanian people, but also of a broad and perhaps major spectrum of the Arab peoples, of whose aspirations he is the authentic spokesman.

The writer is a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former foreign minister

Congressional opposition to U.S. Gulf policy attracts strong support

By Martin Walker

WASHINGTON — A senior congressman has become the first American politician to oppose sending U.S. troops to the Gulf, and to the surprise of Washington's political establishment, has found strong support from his voters in Michigan.

Congressman Bob Traxler is a member of the College of Cardinals, the traditional title for the powerful chairman of the 13-subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee. They control the purse-strings of government and their views, which are usually orthodox, command respect.

Mr. Traxler surprised his fellow Cardinals recently by announcing that he was "unalterably opposed" to Operation Desert Shield. The Cardinals were even more startled when Mr. Traxler's local paper, the Saginaw News, reported that its own soundings of the voters showed 63 per cent of them backed their congressman's stand.

The support of Mr. Traxler is one of several indications that public opinion is increasingly ambivalent about the prospect of war in the Gulf. Significantly, the foreign affairs committee of the lower House of Congress decided not to vote on a draft resolution which would endorse President Bush's actions so far.

"I do not believe in what we are doing. I don't see it in the national interest and I'm compelled to raise my hand and say I dissent... We need to come home. We have serious economic problems that deserve our full attention and resources," Mr. Traxler said.

"There's no reason for us to be in the sands of Arabia except oil. There's no threat to our homeland. We could develop an energy policy that would free us from foreign oil. We chose not to do that. "I want us energy independent and the troops home to build this country for the economic warfare of the next century," he added.

Mr. Traxler's office in Washington says that the mail is running to 60-40 in his favour, and that only two letters have accused him of being a "traitor." The other leading critic of President Bush's policy, Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, has also found strong support in his prairie state.

"I am profoundly uneasy about the instant deployment of over 100,000 American troops, sold to the American people on false assertions that Saddam Hussein is Adolf Hitler, that our way of life is at clear and present danger, that we have as much at stake as we did in the World War II. At this moment, I believe our military action was improperly rationalised, incompletely thought out, and dangerous," Senator Kerrey said on the Senate floor recently.

Congressmen are now turning back to the small print of recent opinion polls in an attempt to discover just what the American public thinks. A Washington Post-ABC poll which reported 78 per cent approval for President George Bush's handling of the crisis, and 81 per cent approval for sending of U.S. troops, produced different answers to deeper questions.

Only 48 per cent replied yes when asked if they "favour invading Kuwait to force out Iraq, if this meant risking war with Iraq." A majority of 52 per cent said they opposed keeping U.S. forces in the Gulf permanently.

"South Dakota is sending me a lot of mixed signals. The farther you get from the initial response, the greater the uncertainty about the reason for our being there," said Senator Tom Daschle, co-chairman of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

Mr. Traxler, who faces reelection in six weeks, has in 14 years turned what was once a safe Republican constituency along the shores of Lake Huron into a personal fiefdom, where he was last returned to Congress with 72 per cent of the vote — The Guardian.

LETTERS

Turkey not against Jordan

To the editor:

IT WAS most disappointing for me to see, in your editorial of October 7th, "Steps to Reconsider", Turkey being depicted as a country "putting some formidable obstacles to Jordanian trucks," ...getting in league with other countries to prevent them from doing their trade" and even "trying to strangle Jordan in a rather coordinated way."

In an atmosphere conducive to theories of conspiracy, it is not surprising to find such stories circulating. What is surprising is to see a serious newspaper as the Jordan Times falling prey to them. It was disappointing and indeed appalling to read these accusations, particularly in an article which had nothing to do with Turkey or the Jordanian-Turkish relations. It is inconceivable to understand how you can reach at such easy conclusions without even relating what the problem is. I do not want to be drawn into an argument over the issue which we are trying to resolve amicably with the Jordanian authorities, but I feel you have an obligation towards your readers to provide them with facts. It may well be that the whole dispute is over the number of trucks to be permitted in accordance with existing international agreement.

Let me summarise what the issue is and try to separate eggs from apples which you have put in the same basket.

The International Land Transport Agreement concluded in 1988 between Jordan and Turkey has left the determination of the annual quotas (or number of permits to be issued for trucks transiting each country) to a later stage. Now it seems we have reached that stage in view of the problems our transport sectors are facing following the Gulf crisis. Recently a substantial increase in Jordanian demands for special permits has been recorded. Whatever the reasons for this increase, may be, the Turkish authorities could not immediately respond positively to these applications since the Turkish transporters are also facing serious problems. A big number of Turkish trucks engaged in export, transiting and transshipment of goods to Iraq and Kuwait remain idle as it is the case in Jordan. Therefore, it is not a matter of strangling Jordan but attempting to provide employment to local transporters and sharing the diminishing means with the Jordanian transporters. However, trucks with Jordanian registered plates are not prevented to enter Turkey nor are Jordanian goods. There is, moreover, no limitation and/or restriction on the transportation of goods from Turkey to Jordan as long as benefits are equitably reaped.

As you can see there is no relation between this issue and the positions our respective governments have taken in the Gulf crisis. Friendly and brotherly relations between Jordan and Turkey which we cherish need to be protected from unnecessarily exaggerated reactions. We are in constant contact with the Jordanian authorities concerned. I can assure your readers that a solution will soon be found to this issue (a minor one I believe) avoiding further exploitation of emotions.

Okday Aksoy,
Ambassador of Turkey,
Amman.

Proportionate response

To the Editor:

Reference Dr. Abdalla Malki's article on the Economic-Political Forum (Sept. 26, 90). Resolution 660 is no where a xerox of 242. The economies of every country of the world are affected by Iraq's action. The sum total is mind boggling. The response has to be proportionate.

Capt. Otis F. D'Souza,
H/2, Mandar,
Raut Lane, Jahu
Bombay - 400049
India.

Jaha won't do

To the Editor:

ON Dr. Waleed Sadi's article "Let's send Jaha to Baghdad and Riyadh" (Jordan Times, Sept. 24, 1990), I have several points to make:

— The massive build-up of multinational forces led by the U.S. which may exceed 250,000 troops by the end of next month in Saudi Arabia will not leave the holy land by an order from the Saudi government even if Riyadh decides to do so.

— The Saudi government is not willing to open any dialogue to defuse the explosive situation because the West rejects that.

— Massing all these foreign and Arab forces against Iraq has left no room for a negotiated peaceful settlement.

— Americans have gone too far in their criminal actions, especially by starving innocent children.

— The core of the problem is having 20 per cent of oil reserve in Arab hands and that what worries the West.

— The behaviour of the Saudi government by expelling Jordanian diplomats and moreover accusing them of spying, cutting off oil supplies after a six-hour notice, are unjustifiable actions towards a country like Jordan which had sacrificed a lot for our brothers in Saudi Arabia.

— The invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops, as His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan explained, did not come out of a vacuum. The problem has its deep roots: Kuwait had launched a fierce economic war against Iraq which had fought for eight years on behalf of Gulf countries and all Arabs.

Also, Kuwait was an Iraqi province throughout history until British colonial rule divided them after World War I.

I think, it is time to know the core of the problem and to be reasonable and objective rather than deceive ourselves. The Arabs must stand firm against foreign intervention, and that is why I know very well that jaha will not succeed in its mission.

Hussein Othman,
Amman.

We are with Saddam

To the Editor:

SINCE Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2, there have been claims that President Saddam Hussein is losing his battle to foreign forces and economic and diplomatic sanctions. These claims cite as basis the alleged increased Kuwaiti resistance to Iraqi forces. Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 border treaty with Iran and its withdrawal from Iranian territory, and reports of food and medicine shortages in Kuwait and Iraq. The claimants also contend that the Palestinian cause and Palestinians in general have suffered a setback as a result of Iraq's occupation and annexation of Kuwait.

These and other claims must be part of the propaganda war waged against Iraq in particular and Arabs in general.

Arabs have been striving for decades for political and social transformation. Their attempts were always frustrated by differences and splits among Arab leaders. Palestinians suffered most. They have been sacrificing for the last 50 years to regain their rights. But so far, with no tangible results. That compounded their agony and despair. Apart from Jordan, Palestinians in the Arab World have always been treated as aliens, especially in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf states. For them Iraq and President Saddam Hussein is a strong hope.

Therefore, whatever the outcome of this crisis might be, we, the Arabs, and particularly the Palestinians should act in solidarity with Iraq, the only country in the region which has the power and courage to stand up against Israel and its supporters in U.S. and Europe....

To President Saddam Hussein, I say, we are all with you in the battle for Arab dignity. We either live in dignity or die in grace.

Susan A. Rasekh,
Amman.

1890: a hundred years ago

By Jean Chabrier
L'Actualité en France

1890 began with a flu epidemic. People were worried about the ravages of alcoholism and, already, about the growing use of drugs with the new vogue of "nephromania" which consisted in breathing in paraffin vapours. The Sacre Coeur basilica in Montmartre was nearing completion and the new Faculty of Medicine was inaugurated in Paris, while preparatory work was being carried out on the Metro, which had been planned since 1855. Montpellier University solemnly celebrated its 600th anniversary and physical education was introduced in schools. The Par-Mutuel (tote betting) was created and the fame of the opera singer Dame Nellie Melba was ensured by the peach desert named after her.

The average speed of mainline trains varied between 88 and 102 kilometres an hour, but people were not over-enthusiastic about electricity, the telephone and the phonograph. And the beginnings of the Panhard brothers' automobile and the first "flea jumps" of Clement Ader's aeroplane were only known to a handful of initiates. They were considered as the playthings of the idle rich.

The new port of "La Pallice" at La Rochelle on the Atlantic coast, greatly admired by technicians, was inaugurated. The work of the refrigeration engineer, Pictet, who created a chain of huge

refrigerated warehouses both in France and abroad, was also admired. Smokeless gunpowder, which had recently been invented, was undergoing intensive tests as well as various kinds of military material and the French Navy launched new kinds of highly efficient battleships. The idea of getting one's own hack for the 1870/71 war was gaining in strength every year and the ruins of the Cour des Comptes (Audit Office), on Quai d'Orsay, still stood in the heart of Paris, serving as a focus for it. Alsace and Lorraine, which had been lost, were in the hearts of all the French. A subject of pride was the 5-masted "France", the biggest sailing ship ever built, 114 metres long with 59 metre high masts for a tonnage of 6,000 tonnes, a record never to be equalled.

A famous tidbit of news concerns the "bleeding trunk", abandoned in a left-luggage office at Gare de Lyon station, and containing the corpse of bailiff Gouffe, cut up into pieces. This method was widely imitated all over the world, but it did not help the assassin, Eyraud, who was arrested in Havana at the end of the year. The story inspired many song-writers in Montmartre and "Gouffe's trunk" became the subject of many ballads. Police Inspector Jaume, who was able to gain admittance anywhere thanks to his clever disguises, became a celebrity, and all the police-forces

in the world were interested in the system of anthropometry developed by Bertillon.

Politics continued its games, but opinion was moved when the Duke of Orleans returned to France to do his military service in spite of the law banning descendants from French royal families from entering the country. He was sentenced to two years in prison. The first anti-slavery congress was also held in Paris, presided over by Cardinal Lavergne.

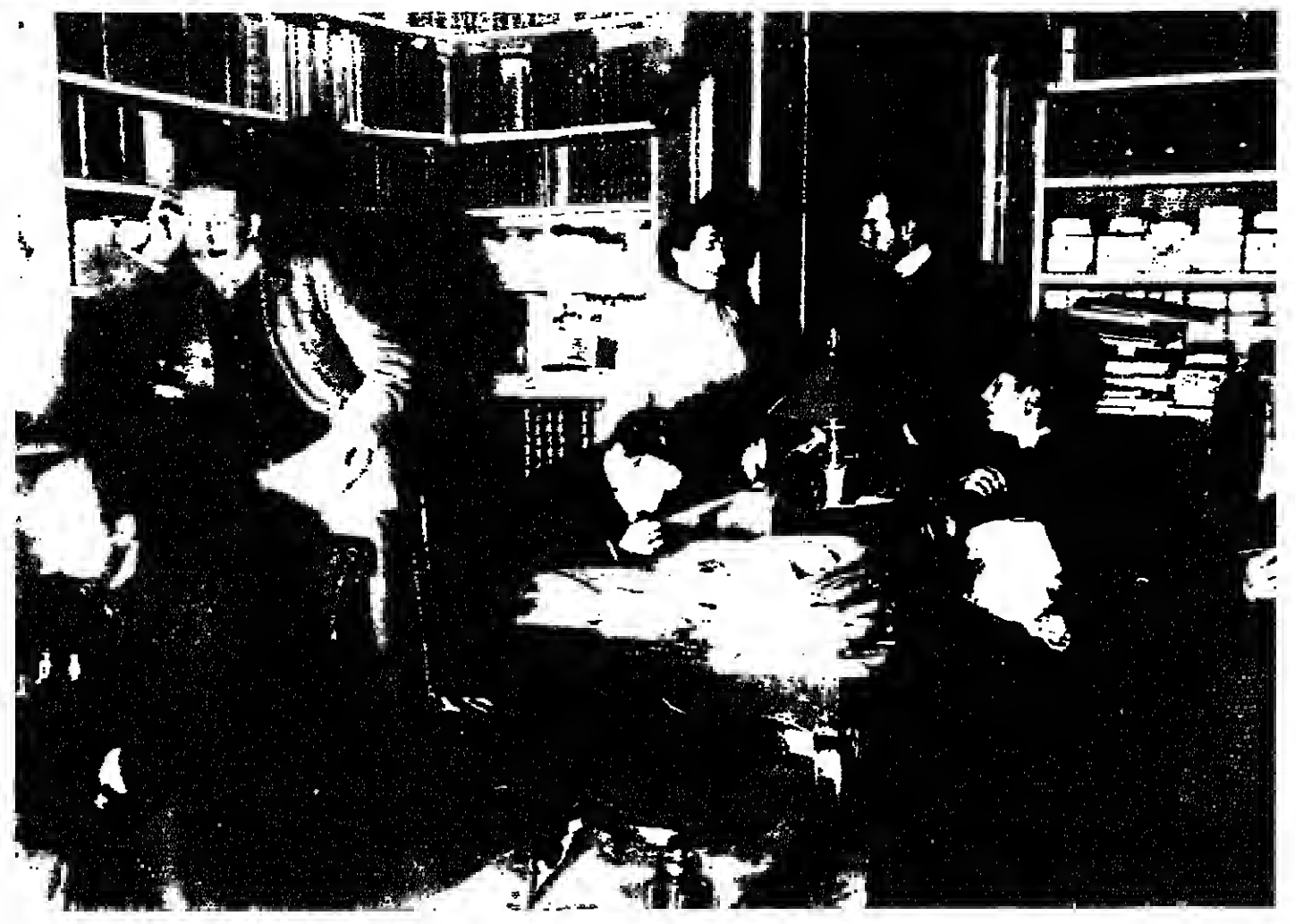
The weather was fairly changeable with violent storms and even 20 centimetres of snow in Luehon, at the foot of the Pyrenees, right in the middle of summer. The delightful painter and watercolourist, E. Lamid, as did the very witty writer Alphonse Karr, who, while still young, withdrew to a remote spot in the country where he grew flowers, as he was disgusted with Paris whose little darling he had become. The place was Saint-Raphael.

Many things also happened abroad. Belgium celebrated her jubilee and almost caused a diplomatic incident (though whether it was a slip up or pre-meditated, who can tell?). By presenting a menu written entirely in French to the German Emperor who had banned the language, Germany and Britain signed a convention on sharing out Africa, which caused concern among other nations. The island

of Heligoland was retroceded to Germany to seal the treaty. But with the rise of socialism in the elections Bismarck resigned. Ten year old Wilhelm III, king of the Netherlands. In Spain, the equally young King Alphonse XIII, aged 4, was seriously ill, while Carlos I became king of Portugal. In Russia, construction was begun on the Trans-Siberian railway, whose route the Czar had just determined. Since 1870, the Popes had considered themselves as prisoners of the Italian State. For the first time in 20 years, Pope Leo XIII left the Vatican and went as far as Rome.

There were wars, revolutions and conflicts everywhere: a revolution in Argentina, a conflict between San Salvador and Guatemala, nationalist agitation in Ireland, etc... There had even been a mini-revolution, with a single death, in the very peaceful Swiss confederation and Berne had had to send troops to the Canton of Tessin. The United States were faced with a revolt from Indian tribes. Colonel Cody, alias "Buffalo Bill" and the less known Major Miles went to fight them. The "electric chair", which was to be used as a means of execution also appeared in the U.S.A.

And then, right next to France, in Germany, a certain Doctor Koch isolated, without any doubt whatsoever, the "consumption"



France: a century ago

bacillus, that is to say the Tuberculosis bacterium and it was highly hoped that it would be possible to stamp out this terrible disease

in the near future. That is what was happening in the world which numerous explorers were still trying to discover.

There was even talk of a forthcoming attempt to fly over the North Pole in a balloon, and competition was going round asking

for the Eiffel Tower to be taken down. It is true that it had only been built as a temporary construction for the 1889 World Fair.

Iraq sees war imminent

(Continued from page 1)

say that we've made a decision that by X date there will be military action would not be accurate," Cheney said.

U.S. military officials said that the American troop build up in Saudi Arabia is virtually complete, but its forces still lack the firepower necessary to launch a successful ground offensive against Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

The officials, in Washington and Saudi Arabia, said that all of the heavy armour being shipped to the Gulf should arrive by week's end, closing out the biggest phase of the two-month deployment and bringing to nearly 200,000 the number of U.S. troops in the region.

Discussion of U.S. options has included speculation that the American mission might shift from the defence of Saudi Arabia to some offensive action against Iraqi forces once the final U.S. armoured units arrived.

Britain is redeploying a squadron of Tornado GR1 ground-attack jets from Bahrain to Saudi Arabia and 12 Jaguar strike aircraft from Oman to Bahrain. Armed Forces Minister Archibald Hamilton said Sunday.

"This is basically to enhance our deterrent effect," Hamilton told reporters at the Muharraq air facility in Bahrain.

Hamilton said the Tornados would fly to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, while the full squadron of 12 Jaguars would be rebased in Bahrain within about 10 days.

By then, Britain will have 40 to 50 combat aircraft deployed in the region as part of its contribution to the multinational buildup.

Church appeals to Bush

The spiritual leader of the episcopal church, whose most prominent

member is President Bush, Saturday appealed for Bush to avoid the "trap of war," in the Gulf by giving sanctions against Iraq time to work.

Presiding Bishop Edmund Browning, in a pastoral statement directed to Bush and 2.4 million U.S. Episcopalians, also pleaded for Americans not to allow the Gulf crisis to "degenerate into an anti-Arab campaign" or see the conflict as a "clash between Islam and Christianity."

A spokesman for the Episcopal Church, which is the U.S. branch of world Anglicanism, told Reuters the statement was being distributed to all Episcopal bishops in the hopes it would be disseminated through 7,400 local churches as quickly as possible.

"I pray for President Bush that he adhere to the United Nations resolutions on the Gulf crisis... I urge that he remain steadfast and never give in to the trap of war," the Episcopal leader wrote.

While condemning Iraq's "aggression" against Kuwait, Browning also questioned the U.S. troops buildup in the Gulf, saying it appears mainly motivated by economic ties to Americans' "addiction to unnecessary consumption."

"Does not the movement of a massive war machine to the deserts of Saudi Arabia and the waters of the Persian Gulf make war the more likely? The sanctions must be given time to work," he said.

He also urged Episcopalians to work to assure that America's national motives are "clear and honourable" and that "we not demonise, stereotype or oversimplify."

"Americans must realise that the Saddam Hussein characterised as an Adolf Hitler after his invasion of Kuwait is the same person who a few weeks earlier was being touted by the (Bush) administration as a possible guarantor of peace and stability in the region," Browning said.

"Surely truth and justice are not served by stereotype and propagandistic demonisation," he added.

Badran says hope revived

(Continued from page 1)

The prime minister noted that Jordan had been turned into a basic centre for diplomacy because of its initial stand and support for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Jordan's stand and its insistence on finding a peaceful solution to the crisis was considered by some leaders as departure from world opinion, he said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Badran said, seeks to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis because he sees a way out in this solution for the Palestine question which has remained frozen for a long time.

Syrians will not join attack

(Continued from page 1)

"It also supports the cause of just peace in our region and in the world," Assad said, adding that "I wish to express my confidence that development of relations between our two countries will continue according to the path designated in the treaty."

In his message, Gorbachev expressed his "satisfaction as to the high level of Soviet-Syrian relations."

"We have to deepen it and expand it in current world circumstances to serve the interests of the USSR and Syria."

The treaty was signed in the Kremlin Oct. 7, 1980.

The Soviet Union, Syria's chief arms supplier, has been urging Assad to abandon his drive for strategic parity with Israel and has reduced the flow of advanced weaponry to Damascus, according to Western reports.

However, Moscow has reiterated its continuing commitment to Syria's security.

In light of Moscow's recent tightening up on arms supplies to Syria, its agreement to join the U.S.-led force in the Gulf has been seen as an attempt by Assad to draw closer to Washington.

Syria has long been vilified by the U.S. government as a sponsor of "terrorism," but last month U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Damascus.

The Baker-Assad meeting was intended to explore further cooperation.

leader of the Arab liberation movement to accept the presence of foreign troops on Arab soil," he said.

Arafat implied that the PLO was undeterred by Gulf states' deportations of Palestinians working there.

"It is not the first time that Palestinians were deported... they were expelled in waves ten times for (supporting) late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser and twice to appease the late Shah of Iran," he said.

"It is not the first time... but oil will never be more important to us than our holy places (in Palestine)," he said.

The Palestinian leader praised Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's position vis-a-vis the Palestinians. "You can tell real gold when you rub it... his position is golden," he said.

Arafat left Amman late Sunday. Arafat, who arrived here from Baghdad late Saturday after talks with Iraqi leaders and special Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov, told Petra that the "best solution to the Gulf crisis was an Arab solution under an international umbrella," but "a solution to all problems of the region is a basic requirement."

Petra said Saturday's talks, which included a lunch at Al Nadwa Palace, were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine.

The Palestinian side to the talks included Fatah leader Salah Khalaf, PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Abdul Razaq Al Yahya and the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

A senior PLO official said Saturday that the organisation had recently launched a flurry of diplomatic activities to Arab and Western countries, attempting to formulate a comprehensive peace invitation to the Gulf.

"That initiative should ensure a linkage between a solution to the Gulf crisis and a settlement of other Middle East conflicts, mainly the Palestinian problem," the official

King, Arafat discuss Gulf efforts

(Continued from page 1)

told the AP on condition of anonymity.

He said Palestinian leaders suggested that a unified Arab peace formula should be the first step, with an emphasis on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Arab lands.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein proposed on Aug. 12 that he would discuss withdrawing from Kuwait if an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip was also negotiated.

"The Gulf crisis, and world and regional talk about this linkage will definitely top the agenda of President Arafat's talks with King Hussein," PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Mithem told Reuters.

"There are qualitative steps towards the need to implement all U.N. resolutions on all disputes in the region," he said.

Recent statements by French, U.S., British and Soviet leaders have suggested that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could pave the way for a broader Middle East peace.

But they still insist on an unconditional Iraqi pullout from Kuwait.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told the Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday that "solving the Gulf crisis should be a prelude to dealing with other issues in the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue."

Ahmad Al Jamal, an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the PLO was pushing either for an international conference on the Gulf and Middle East conflicts or an Arab solution requiring the departure of American and other foreign troops from the Gulf.

"Then the Arab League would discuss the rest of the issues," he told Reuters.

Palestinian sources in Amman said PLO policy would be drafted at a meeting of its 100-member Central Council in Tunis Oct. 10 called to discuss the Gulf crisis, Reuters reported.

They said Syrian-based Palestinian groups, currently outside the PLO umbrella, might attend as observers. They said participation by groups previously opposed to Arafat would

boost his leadership of the PLO.

Jamal said the Central Council meeting "will try to come out with a unified Palestinian position."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has applauded a statement by Douglas Hurd, Britain's foreign secretary, that Palestinians deserve world understanding in their quest for a homeland.

In a speech Thursday that was openly critical of Israel, Hurd said anyone with a sense of humanity "must sympathise with the Palestinians."

"Their lands are occupied, they have no political rights and they are daily victims of a misguided policy which believes that the security of Israel must rest on closed universities, illegitimate settlements and even collective punishment," he said.

In a letter to Hurd, Afif Safieh, head of the PLO's London delegation, said Hurd's speech was "a great source of encouragement for the Palestinian people living under either endless occupation or enforced dispossession."

"For two years we have invited Israel to abandon the dialogue of arms and to explore with us, under the United Nations auspices, the potential of... dialogue and negotiation."

"Today the international community is facing the challenge of whether there is one mankind or different kinds of men and women."

The PLO, he said, "remains committed to its peace initiative and is available for a peaceful and negotiated settlement."

Hurd told the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council should consult in preparation for a meeting on the Palestinian question.

"We believe that preparation should aim at, and end in, an international conference... all parties with a direct interest should be allowed a seat - the Israelis, Palestinians, other Arab states in the region and the five," he said.

Safieh told Hurd his speech "has proven that you believe international law is indivisible and that the United Nations should address the un-

finished business" in the Gulf and in Palestine.

Safieh said he hoped other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council would endorse Hurd's statement.

Israeli newspapers reacted with alarm and anger Sunday to Hurd's proposal.

Hadashot, a popular tabloid, said Britain had joined the Soviet Union and France in drawing a parallel between Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Avi Pazner, senior advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, again rejected any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Such linkage will only ensure that you are not going to solve any problem," he told the international television news agency Visnews Sunday.

Israeli raid

(Continued from page 1)

has become routine in Arab Jerusalem.

In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli forces found the bodies of three Palestinians killed by unknown assailants Friday and Saturday.

In most of the occupied territories, residents observed a general strike called by the Islamic Jihad (boly war) movement to mark what it calls the third anniversary of the uprising. Other Palestinian groups say the revolt began in December 1987.

In Gaza, the Israeli army clamped a Israeli curfew on Rafah camp and in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City.

At Bureij refugee camp, forces rounded up dozens of residents for questioning in connection with the killing of an Israeli soldier there Sept. 19.

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Abu Dhabi awards major contract for gas project

DUBAI (R) — Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was awarded a contract for a major natural gas expansion project despite the shadow of war over the Gulf.

The Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (Adgas) awarded the \$600 million expansion of its Das Island gas plant to a consortium including Japan's Chiyoda, oil industry sources said.

Talks on the project had been going on since last year.

The determination of both Abu Dhabi and Japanese companies to conclude the deal reflected confidence that long-term stability might follow the uncertainty in the Gulf since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, an oil industry executive

said.

The project will almost double the Das Island plant's capacity to 4.3 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) a year from 2.2 million. It also produces liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The expansion project includes a third train of refining facilities at Das Island, which lies off Abu Dhabi and refines natural gas from its big offshore oil and gas fields.

To feed the third train Abu Dhabi will develop gas reservoirs at the nearby Umm Shaif and Abu Bakhorah oil fields, industry sources said.

Abu Dhabi's natural gas reserves are over 5.2 trillion cubic metres, or 4.6 per cent of the world total.

A \$1 billion contract is expected to be signed soon to build LNG tankers to take the gas to Japan. Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) will sign a 20-year agreement Oct. 15 to buy the extra output, starting from 1994.

TEPCO has been buying over 2.4 million tonnes of LNG and LPG from the existing plant on Das Island since 1977. The agreement expires in 1997 but is expected to be renewed.

Adgas is a joint venture between the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), which holds 51 per cent, and British Petroleum, Total-CFP of France, Mitsui and Co. Ltd, and Mitsui Liquefied Gas Company.

Islamic group opens trade talks

ISTANBUL (R) — The standing committee of the 44-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) began its sixth annual meeting in Turkey Sunday to discuss preferential trade and economic cooperation, the Anatolian News Agency said.

Delegations from the member states will discuss cooperation in the areas of industry, agriculture, transportation, telecommunications and energy ahead of the ministerial-level meetings starting Tuesday and ending Oct. 10. A suggestion by a member of the Uganda delegation for including the Gulf crisis and its adverse economic impacts in the meeting's agenda was turned down, the agency said.

The Iraqi delegation was expected at the meetings, which Turkish officials said had not arrived yet, the agency said, while the Kuwaiti officials were present during Sunday's talks.

U.S. recession debate heats up

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street economists think they know what a recession is, but they can't agree on whether the United States is in one.

Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan did not help the confusion by offering a definition at odds with the textbook version of six months of economic decline.

No official definition of recession really exists, said Ken Goldstein, an economist at the Conference Board business group.

Economists say recent U.S. economic figures clearly point to a "downturn," "sluggishness," or "softness" but they have been cautious about using the R-word too quickly.

Greenspan doesn't want to create the impression that the United States has fallen into a recession, since that would increase the pressure on the central bank to lower interest rates and stimulate the economy, analysts said. While the Fed has been slowly

notching rates down in the past 10 months, Greenspan has avoided any dramatic move to ease credit for fear of feeding his number one enemy — inflation.

The economic signals, however, are not good.

The government reported Friday that the U.S. unemployment rate rose to a near 7-1/2 year high of 5.7 per cent in September, while new job growth slowed dramatically.

Manufacturing has been contracting, real estate has been battered, banks have cut back lending, and the stock market has fallen 17 per cent from its August peak, signalling a pervasive business slump.

Economists said Washington's inability to come to terms with the massive U.S. budget deficit also means growth could be hurt later on, since continued U.S. borrowing keeps interest rates high.

Despite the warning signals, however, it might take some time

before economists squarely decide the United States is in a recession.

The closest to an official definition is one used by the U.S. Commerce Department, based on findings by the national Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It defines a recession as a period of decline in output, income, employment and trade, usually lasting from six months to a year and marked by widespread contractions.

But by the time the National Bureau declares a recession it is usually six months to one year old.

Many economists, impatient for the bureau's decision, are predicting that a recession will start when the economy enters the fourth quarter.

And they say the Federal Reserve should lower interest rates soon to stave off the event.

Greenspan, however, has cautioned about placing too much

emphasis on two quarters of economic decline, since that may reflect statistical inaccuracies.

"Three years later when the Department of Commerce gets its basic data revised you will find out you really were not in (a recession)," Greenspan told the Senate in September.

A severe contraction, a true recession, would be much more apparent than the current state of affairs. "A process in which the economy is deteriorating in a cumulative interactive manner... never gets revised," he said.

But some congressmen think Greenspan is splitting semantic hairs in order to forestall any quick move to lower interest rates for the time being.

For months now, the Fed chairman has held out the prospect of lower interest rates as a reward for a budget accord.

If the Fed eased interest rates before a deal goes through Congress, a major incentive for the reduction package would be gone, economists said.

Hungary halts reexports of fuel as oil imports fall

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary, hit by the Soviet Union's cutback in oil exports to Eastern Europe this year, has stopped reexporting excess fuel it previously sold for hard currency.

The official MTI news agency said Soviet oil exports to Hungary totalled only 3.87 million tonnes in the first nine months of the year instead of the contracted 4.2 million.

Moscow has already said it will deliver only 315,000 tonnes in October rather than the agreed 412,000 tonnes.

As a result, the Hungarian Oil and Gas Trust has been forced to buy 900,000 tonnes of oil on the open market this year, a costly strain on an economy struggling towards a free market system at a time when the Gulf crisis is raising oil prices.

In the past, the Trust bought oil at market prices only to meet domestic demand for petrol, then reexported excess derivative products such as diesel fuel and heating oil.

"Now the export of Hungarian oil products has been stopped, and only imports of raw materials to meet domestic demand are permitted," MTI said.

Such sales earned Hungary \$400 million last year, but will probably fall short of \$300 million in 1990 because the country has no surplus fuel to export.

Hungary, where domestic oil production covers less than a quarter of demand, is heavily dependent on the Soviet Union for imports of natural gas and electricity as well as for oil.

Along with Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany, it has felt the squeeze as the Soviet Union cuts back its oil exports to the region.

Moscow has told its Eastern European trading partners the shortfalls were caused by domestic problems of supply and demand. Western oil analysts say poor organisation and the Soviet need for hard currency also play a role.

Taiwan's trade surplus shrinks

TAIPEI (AP) — Taiwan's trade surplus during the first three quarters of 1990 totalled \$9.39 billion, a 10.3 per cent drop from the same period last year, the government has announced.

The government's budget office said the September surplus was \$1.41 billion, up 36.6 per cent from a year earlier.

Exports in the first nine months this year totalled \$49.56 billion, down 0.2 per cent from the same period of 1989, while imports totalled \$40.17 billion, an increase of 2.4 per cent, the agency said.

Trade officials attributed the continuing surplus decline to reduced exports at a time when Taiwan faces an economic slowdown.

Taiwan has projected 5.24 per cent economic growth this year, compared to 7.35 per cent in 1989. But the rise in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis could lower the figure.

Taiwan's surplus with the United States, its largest trading partner, totalled \$7.01 billion in the nine-month period, down 22.5 per cent from a year earlier.

Qatar writes off debts of 10 developing states

NICOSIA (R) — Qatar's foreign ministry said Sunday it would write off debts of 10 Arab and African states, the Omani News Agency reported.

The agency said the decision, announced at the U.N. General Assembly Friday, covered Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Somalia, Guinea, Uganda, Cameroon and Mali.

All 10 countries have denounced Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The agency, received in Cyprus, said the decision covered all debts and all interest due on them but gave no details.

Oman signs a \$74m gas expansion project

NICOSIA (R) — Oman Sunday signed a \$74 million contract with two companies from Japan and the Netherlands to double its natural gas output.

The Omani News Agency said the project to expand a gas treatment station in Yibal near the Saudi border would take 22 months to complete, increasing the country's daily natural gas output from 8.5 million cubic metres to 16.5 million.

The agency, received in Cyprus, said Oman's Oil Minister Said Al Shabani signed the agreement with the two companies.

It said expansion of the Yibal station was aimed at meeting increasing domestic demand for gas, mainly as fuel for industry and power and water desalination plants.

Poll names Seattle best place in U.S. for business

SEATTLE (AP) — In the eyes of corporate executives, the U.S. northwest's biggest city is the best place in the nation to locate a business, elbowing out Atlanta for the top spot in an annual survey.

About one-third of the 400 executives polled ranked Seattle "excellent" citing quality of life for employees and the likelihood that economic conditions will improve over the next year.

Seattle, the largest city in Washington State, finished second last year behind Atlanta in the survey by the commercial real estate firm Cushman and Wakefield.

Atlanta, Georgia, dropped to sixth this year, after holding the top spot for the first four years the survey was conducted. Seattle finished first in the quality-of-life category.

Algeria sees dinar convertible by 1992

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's currency will be freely convertible by 1992 at the latest under economic reforms designed to spur productivity, central bank governor Abderrahmane Hadji-Nacer said Sunday.

"Convertibility can be achieved rapidly, by 1991 or 1992 at the latest," he told a conference on state firms in crisis.

Ordinary Algerians can now exchange dinars for hard currency only on the black market, agricultural and industrial schemes designed to boost domestic production and it will also keep hard currency in the government has been gradually devaluing the currency which was officially quoted at 8.2 to the dollar at the start of this year.

Government economic reforms aim to curb the black market by making scarce goods more widely available through increased domestic production or

a new system of concessionaires. Under this system foreign firms and their Algerian agents will be able to sell selected goods directly in hard currency.

"This (new) system of concessionaires will speed up the convertibility of the dinar," Hadji-Nacer said. "It will gradually improve the productivity of the economy, and the size of our reserves."

The system gives priority to the black market, agricultural and industrial schemes designed to boost domestic production and it will also keep hard currency in the government has been gradually devaluing the currency which was officially quoted at 8.2 to the dollar at the start of this year.

Government economic reforms aim to curb the black market by making scarce goods more widely available through increased domestic production or

This would boost the banking system's ability to offer hard currency loans. "There will be less pressure for hard currency on the black market," Hadji-Nacer said. "More dinars will be available at the official rate."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

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French franc	125.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	205.0

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Oil cuts force Balkan Air to reduce flights

SOFIA (R) — Reduced Soviet oil deliveries will force Bulgaria's national carrier Balkan Air to reduce domestic flights drastically, a Sofia airport official said Sunday.

The official told Reuters that flights to all destinations within Bulgaria would be cut this week.

According to airline sources Balkan is to cut flights on its seven domestic routes, between Sofia and the major towns, by around half between Oct. 10 and 27. International flights would

not be affected, they added.

Bulgaria has been among the hardest hit by Moscow's decision to cut oil supplies to former East Bloc allies to around 30 per cent below contracted levels.

Soviet officials have said the move was due to falling production and Moscow's increased reliance on hard currency in foreign trade transactions.

Bulgaria is due to introduce petrol rationing Oct. 15, setting a limit of 40 litres per month.

Vietnam bans foreign cigarettes as new 'imperialism'

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam has banned the import and consumption of foreign cigarettes, which the state radio called the new "imperialism" of the United States and other capitalist countries.

Violators face legal action under Prime Minister Do Muoi's directive No. 270, which came into effect last week, the official Radio Hanoi said.

Officials who protect illegal traders or who misuse the confiscated cigarettes will be punished, the broadcast said.

People who give the authorities information on cigarette smuggling rings will be rewarded, it said.

The official Vietnam News Agency last month said the ban was needed because imports were draining foreign exchange reserves, seriously hurting the local cigarette industry and creating consumption habits incompatible with the country's general living standards.

U.S. and other foreign brands had been readily available on the black market. They were much more expensive than local brands but also much preferred by the Vietnamese, who are heavy smokers, as symbols of taste and luxury.

There were no legal imports of U.S. brands because of the U.S. government trade embargo, designed to pressure Hanoi to resolve the war in Cambodia.

But a commentary over the official Radio Hanoi accused the United States and other capitalist countries of trying to carve out new "empires" with their cigarette exports.

Whites account for only five million of the country's estimated 40 million people, but dominate the economy. Blacks have an annual per capita income of more than \$1,000, one of the highest figures in Africa, but only a small fraction of white incomes in South Africa.

The ANC, the country's leading black opposition movement, has released an economic policy document, saying a top priority would be the redistribution of wealth through affirmative action programmes favouring blacks.

The group says it covetous a mixed economy, "but does not believe that market forces alone will result in anything but the perpetuation of existing disparities of income."

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But the 18-page document released last week refrained from specific calls to nationalise major industries.

It did say, however, that there might be cases for the "compulsory establishment of new public enterprises."

ANC eases socialist stance

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The African National Congress (ANC), at odds with white businessmen on the country's economic future, has toned down its socialist policies but still wants to nationalise some industries if it comes to power.

The ANC, the country's leading black opposition movement, has released an economic policy document, saying a top priority would be the redistribution of wealth through affirmative action programmes favouring blacks.

The group says it covetous a mixed economy, "but does not believe that market forces alone will result in anything but the perpetuation of existing disparities of income."

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South Africa now has one of the most unequal patterns of distribution of income and wealth in the world," the ANC said.

South Africa's economy, the most powerful on the continent, currently is in a mild recession and has been suffering double-digit inflation since the early 1980s.

President F.W. de Klerk's government and white businessmen argue that socialist-oriented policies will produce economic stagnation in South Africa similar

to that in Eastern Europe. They say capitalism is the quickest way to raise black living standards.

But the ANC, led by Nelson Mandela, says the government must intervene to reduce the gap between white wealth and black poverty.

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Fire rages in Kashmir capital after troops clash with militants

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Residents of this Kashmirian capital accused paramilitary troops Sunday of setting a fire which spread through a downtown neighbourhood. They said the troops were retaliating after a clash with Muslim militants.

More than 100 tightly packed wooden houses were blazing or smoking, as residents carried whatever they could on their backs and fled through narrow alleys for safety.

It was not immediately known if there were casualties from the fire.

Residents claimed the security forces shot at fire trucks to prevent them from reaching the blaze, and blocked the residents' escape route onto the main road.

Government officials were not in their offices Sunday and could not be reached for comment. The United News of India news agency reported that "fire broke out in six localities in the downtown" of Srinagar. It did not elaborate.

Troops "came and threw gunpowder on my house and my window caught fire," said Ghulam Rasool Gilkar. He said the troops also ignited gunpowder in two or three other houses. The fire spread swiftly.

From 100 metres away, the blaze could still be seen more than three hours after residents said it

began. Occasional gunfire was heard from nearby.

A din of shouting and screams rose over the rooftops from the densely populated neighbourhood, which is about one mile from the city centre.

Residents and security men said the trouble began when an early morning patrol by paramilitary forces in two vehicles came under attack from Muslim separatists.

A policeman on the street said he heard one officer was critically wounded in the attack. Residents said that half an hour later, troops retaliated by setting fire to the houses.

United News of India quoted police sources as saying militants attacked patrols in several downtown areas Sunday morning, and the troops returned fire. It said there were no reported casualties.

Srinagar is the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, which has been wracked since January by a Muslim movement for secession from Hindu-dominated India.

At least 1,300 people have been killed in the 10-month campaign. Indian security forces have been accused in the past of human rights violations in trying to suppress the militant movement.

In a separate development, a 19-year-old Indian student set herself ablaze Sunday in the latest

student self-immolation in protest at a plan to reserve more government jobs for low-caste Hindus.

Police identified her as Monika Chaddha, the ninth student to attempt suicide by fire in three weeks of New Delhi violence against the job reservation plan.

The Press Trust of India quoted hospital sources as saying Chaddha, who suffered 90 per cent burns, shouted anti-government slogans as she was taken for treatment.

Upper-caste Hindus fear the plan will further jeopardise their already dim chances of getting much-prized posts in the government bureaucracy.

More than 70 people have died in violent protests since Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh announced the plan on Aug. 7.

He has steadfastly refused to back down on the plan to raise from 22.5 per cent to nearly half the government jobs reserved for those at the bottom of the rigid Hindu caste system, despite the violence and pleas from backers of his minority government.

The anti-reservation violence which swept across north India, where the caste system is most rigidly observed, has faded significantly in the past week, only to be replaced by Hindu-Muslim riots.

Relations between the 650-mil-

lion strong Hindu majority and India's 100 million Muslims have been fragile since a row over a religious site at Ayodhya in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh erupted into violence last year, leaving 1,000 people dead.

With Hindu fundamentalists, backed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) whose parliamentary votes keep Singh in power, determined to start building a temple on the site of an Ayodhya mosque on Oct. 30, tensions have again turned violent.

Nearly 80 people have been killed in religious riots in the past week after clashes during major Hindu and Muslim festivals.

In the Gonda area of Uttar Pradesh, where at least 37 people have been killed, police say they are still combing the countryside for more bodies and expect the toll to rise.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav appealed for peace Sunday and told local reporters he wanted to set up Hindu-Muslim committees to cool tensions.

In southern Karnataka state, at least 40 people have been killed in religious riots and police there also said they expected the toll to rise as reports came in from rural areas. Police said they feared the eventual toll would be much higher.

Evacuees stream out of Rwanda

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Government forces and rebel invaders from Uganda clashed in northern Rwanda for the eighth day Sunday as the stream of evacuees from the capital grew larger.

Up to a thousand foreigners, primarily women and children, had left Kigali by air by midday Sunday in an evacuation that began Friday night, a diplomatic source in the capital said.

The source, reached by telephone from Nairobi, said the evacuees had departed on special chartered jet flights arranged by the French, Belgian and German governments.

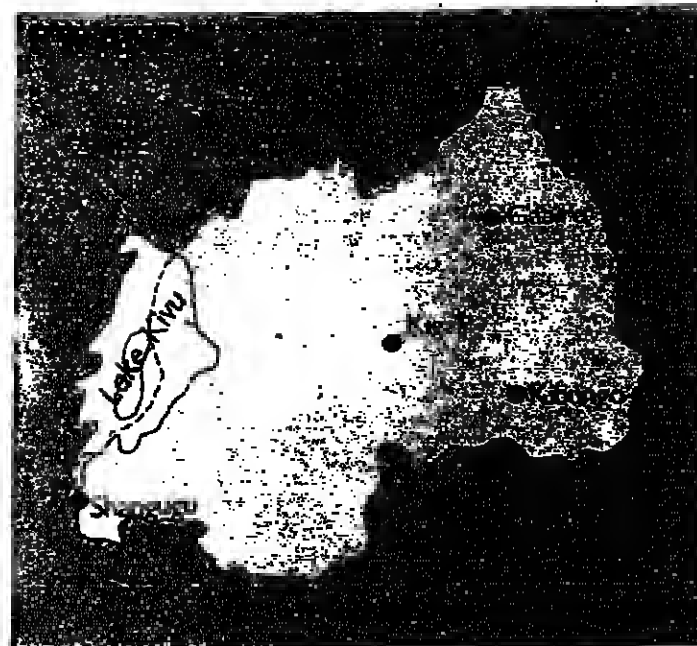
The evacuations, all voluntary, were sparked by fighting in and around the capital early Friday. No governments have ordered evacuations of their citizens.

"We had another calm night — no shooting," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Those leaving are mostly the wives and kids of people involved in various aid projects."

The diplomat said he did not know how many others were awaiting evacuation. "But I would think that most of those who wanted to go have left."

Friday's fighting in Kigali lasted a few hours, but there were fears the conflict that started with the Sept. 30 invasion by refugees from Uganda could degenerate into vicious inter-ethnic violence that has marked Rwanda's past.

The invading rebels belong mostly to Rwanda's minority Tutsi ethnic group. They were chased from power three decades ago by



the majority Hutu tribe in clan fighting that killed tens of thousands of people. More than 100,000 Tutsis fled into neighbouring Uganda, Zaire and Tanzania, where they were living as refugees.

"We've heard reports of continued fighting in the north, including some artillery attacks by the government," the diplomat said. "But there have been no official announcements or anything like that."

He said government soldiers were conducting house-to-house searches in some parts of Kigali, but it was not clear whether they were looking for arms or Tutsis. Tutsis are generally distinguished from the shorter, stockier Hutus by their tall, lanky physiques.

Security in large parts of the city and at the airport was being provided by about 500 Belgian paratroopers and 300 French Foreign Legionnaires. Zaire also

sent 500 soldiers to Kigali from its elite presidential division.

Many of the rebels are said to be deserters from the Ugandan army. Their numbers never have been reliably estimated. Figures cited by various diplomatic sources have ranged from a few hundred to several thousand.

They are led by Maj. Gen. Fred Rwigyema, a Rwandan Tutsi who rose to become the deputy commander of Uganda's army. He was relieved of the post late last year.

The guerrillas accuse President Juvénal Habyarimana of abuse of power and corruption and say they want to install a democratic government. They deny that there is an ethnic war.

The rebels also say they would like to end the refugee problem. Rwanda, the continent's most densely populated nation, has been reluctant to readmit its refugees because of a lack of space.

Filipino rebel troops explode 2 bombs

MANILA (R) — Rightwing rebels exploded two bombs in Manila hours after the defeat of a short-lived rebellion in the southern Philippines, putting troops on renewed alert.

One bomb planted by suspected rebel soldiers exploded inside the Philippine Military Headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo Saturday night, injuring a civilian employee and wrecking a jeep.

Early Sunday, another blew up outside a Finance Ministry building in downtown Manila, but did little harm other than damaging a nearby wall and a tree, witnesses said.

More than 40 bombs have ex-

ploded in the capital since mid-August as part of a campaign to destabilise President Corazon Aquino's government.

Aquino Sunday praised the fact that other army units had not joined the 50-hour insurrection on Mindanao Island. She said the failure of the revolt showed that the public firmly supported democracy.

"This shows once again our people will not support any group that seeks to overthrow our government," Aquino said in a newspaper column.

"Those people who want to assume power cannot just grab power. They have to face the

people," she said.

Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts since being swept to power in a popular revolt in 1986, added:

"They have to ask the people for their support and they have to get the mandate of the people. After all this is what a democracy is all about."

The two bombs exploded a few hours after rebel Colonel Alexander Noble was brought to military headquarters for interrogation after surrendering to military authorities on the southern island of Mindanao where he led a two-day revolt by several hundred soldiers and militiamen.

E. German MPs make their mark

BONN (R) — The united German parliament will hold few formal sessions before all-German elections in December but new members from former East Germany have already made a mark.

Although the 144 newcomers scarcely had time to get their bearings during Friday's one-day plenary meeting in Bonn, they made a noticeable difference to the atmosphere.

"What was striking was their spontaneity, self-confidence and ability to stick to the subject," said parliamentary speaker Rita Suessmuth, a West German Christian Democrat.

The new members, all veterans of East Germany's first and last democratically elected parliament (Volkskammer), said their first impressions of the enlarged 663-member chamber were not always favourable.

"I didn't like the tone in parliament, it was very loud and shrill," said Louise Morgenstern, a 58-year-old member of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

"I think we were more tolerant towards one another," she added, referring to a debate on alternative military service in which leftists and conservatives traded insults.

Marianne Birlcher from the Alliance 90 Coalition of former East German civil rights groups said proceedings in Bonn's Bundestag (lower house) seemed programmed and rehearsed.

The most colourful newcomer was Gregor Gysi, fiery leader of 24 reformed Communist deputies from eastern Germany.

Bhutto has new confidence as opposition parties bicker

ISLAMABAD (R) — Ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been given new confidence in her campaign to return to power as her rivals fall victim to political infighting in the run-up to elections.

With only 17 days left till the Oct. 24 election, the anti-Bhutto Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) and its allies are squabbling over seats. They appear to have failed in efforts to make the vote a simple one-to-one contest against Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

In many constituencies, disgruntled politicians who failed to win the IDA ticket are running as independents. Supposed political allies cannot agree which party

should run.

The cracks show most clearly in Bhutto's home province of Sind, where the IDA had yielded to pressure from the right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party to allow its candidates to stand against those of its allies in the Mohajir National Movement.

Boistered by the divisions among her opponents, Bhutto's political fortunes have revived since President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked her on Aug. 6.

"I think that on Aug. 7, the anti-Bhutto forces could have had a sweeping victory, but I do not think that is true now," a Western diplomat said.

"The PPP has made strides, not far anything they have done,

but what the caretaker government and Ghulam Ishaq Khan have done for them."

Bhutto, who with several of her former ministers faces charges for alleged wrongdoing during her 20 months in government, is showing renewed confidence.

"Benazir is not the name of a woman. It is the name of a storm which will sweep away every obstacle in its way," she told a rally in the Punjab town of Sahiwal Friday.

"The nation does not need political storms which carry the potential of shaking the very foundation of our society and nationhood," retorted caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

Taiwanese opposition supports demand for de facto independence

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (R) — Taiwan's opposition party Sunday took one of the biggest political risks of its short career by demanding Nationalist Taipei drop its 40-year-old claim to be the rightful government of all China.

Ignoring last minute appeals by worried Nationalist officials, delegates to a Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) congress stood and applauded as the party unanimously approved a motion saying Taiwan's government has no political rights to mainland China.

The resolution stopped just

short of an outright demand for Taiwan independence. Nevertheless, it is certain to be regarded as an act of sedition by the government.

Taiwan independence is soundly rejected both by the Nationalists and their Communist rivals in Peking, who drove them into exile from the Chinese mainland in 1949. Both say Taiwan is part of China and the division is only temporary.

Peking has warned it will take Taiwan by force if the small, but economically powerful island

tries to strike out on its own.

"What we are doing is simply making a statement of fact," said former DPP Chairman Yan Chia-Wen, leader of the party's radical wing and author of the resolution.

"After all, we weren't the ones who split Taiwan from China."

The DPP took its vote as President Lee Teng-hui convened the first meeting of his new National Unification Council, aimed at calming fears on both sides of the Taiwan Strait that he backs independence for the island of 20 million.

Brazil democracy shaken by scale of voter apathy

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Just five years after Brazil emerged from the shadow of military rule, the country's fragile democracy has been shaken by voter apathy in national elections.

Reports that up to 60 per cent of its citizens failed to cast valid votes in Wednesday's elections have alarmed Brazilian politicians.

"Here is the news. Blank and invalid votes are in the lead for five state governorships and 15 senate races," the Globo Television Network said in its evening bulletin Saturday.

Latest projections show that nearly two-thirds of Brazil's 84 million voters failed to vote for congressmen in the polls. Nearly half didn't register a preference for the senate and almost a third refused to help elect their state governor.

"It is very worrying that a country which has only just come out of a period of authoritarianism has already lost interest in voting," said Supreme Electoral Tribunal President Sydney Sanchez.

Full official results will only be available in two weeks' time but initial returns show candidates loyal to right-wing President Fernando Collor de Mello ahead.

But his victory is likely to be a hollow one.

Voting is compulsory in Brazil but up to 20 per cent of voters defied the law and stayed at home. Other citizens turned up only to hand in blank or invalid ballot papers.

Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral said voters had "sent a clear message to the politicians. Either

they stay on the side of the people or democracy will become demoralised."

During the 21 years of Brazil's military rule, from 1964 to 1985, hundreds of political and trade union activists disappeared, opposition politicians were exiled and allegations of torture were frequent.

Voters have shown little respect for their elected representatives. An oft-expressed view is that they are lazy, or corrupt, or both.

One disillusioned cleaner in the southern state of Parana returned his voting card on election day saying, "I hereby renounce this supposed right which is incapable of saving off my hunger," the Jornal do Brasil newspaper reported.

An austerity plan launched by Collor in March has meant severe hardship for millions of poor Brazilians, despite the president's campaign promise to protect what he called "the shirtless ones."

The country's immensely rich elite have hardly been touched, leading to a growing popular feeling that — democracy or not — things in Brazil have not changed.

"The congressmen only ever think about us at election time," said carpenter Zacarias de Andrade. "After the elections, if we don't get out of their way, they trample us underfoot."

Counting officers in the provincial town of Maua, Sao Paulo state, nominated one "disillusion" after finding that more than half the votes inside it were invalid.

Osaka workers tired, broke after 5-day anti-police riots

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Tired workers in the slums of Osaka said Sunday they were short of cash and sick of violence after five nights of protests against alleged police links with organised crime.

Cleaning crews moved into the Nishinari Airin slum district to haul away hundreds of burnt-out cars and vending machines, leaving few traces of the latest violence that went on until the early hours of Sunday in the Western Japanese city.

More than 1,500 rampaging workers set fire to cars, hurled stones and bottles and tried to lay siege to a police station that has become a target of popular outrage over links between police

and Japan's powerful "yakuza" or gangsters.

Some 2,500 riot troops used batons and water cannons to defend the police station.

The protests — Japan's worst labour violence in 20 years — began last Tuesday after allegations that a Nishinari policeman had taken bribes from local gangsters who have a monopoly on the recruitment of workers for low-paid day labour.

A police spokesman said 186 people, including 148 police, had so far been injured. Arrests totalled 55.

By Sunday some of the labourers said they were ready to go back to work.

Senator narrowly wins in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (R) — A former leader of the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan has been narrowly rejected by voters in Louisiana in a U.S. Senate bid that had embarrassed President George Bush's Republican Party.

With 95 per cent of the votes counted in the southern state in Saturday's primary election, J. Bennett Johnston, a Democrat and U.S. senator for 18 years, led by 55 per cent to 44 per cent over former Klan Grand Wizard David Duke in unofficial returns. Official returns will not be available until Tuesday.

Duke's controversial past and unofficial candidacy as a conservative Republican drew national attention. Johnston's campaign television film clips of Duke in his KKK days beneath a burning cross in the late 1970s, saluting Nazi-style and yelling, "white victory."

The official Republican Party candidate withdrew from the race Thursday and Republican leaders had urged Louisiana voters to re-elect Democrat Johnston rather than send the 40-year-old former Nazi-sympathiser to the Senate.

Johnston claimed victory and held out an olive branch to Duke supporters. But Duke refused to concede defeat and said Saturday night that he might challenge the election results because the official Republican candidate, state Senator Ben Bagert, withdrew from the race too late for his name to be stricken from the ballot.

Duke, a polished state legislator, campaigned with a populist, champion-of-the-common-man message his opponents consider thinly veiled racism.

Duke dismissed such critics and said his Klan background was "a youthful indiscretion." He said he abandoned the Klan 10 years ago when he founded the National Association for the Advancement of white people.

Six Republican senators issued a statement in Washington Wednesday endorsing Johnston on grounds that "David Duke masquerades as a Republican, but has no place in our party and would bring discredit on the Senate as a whole."

Duke said that because Bagert withdrew so late, votes for Bagert will be discarded under state law.

Bonn, Berlin battle over government's home

BONN (AP) — Bonn glumly accepted fate when Berlin became the capital of reunified Germany, but the quiet city on the Rhine has its dander up over proposals to move the seat of government.

Bonn was West Germany's capital for 41 years, but Berlin became the symbolic capital on unity day, Oct. 3. Bonn remains government and parliamentary seat.

Federal lawmakers will be examining whether Berlin should take over that role as well. The Bonn-Berlin feud has already taken a number of nasty turns.

Bonn boosters charge Berlin is ill-suited to become government seat since it was the centre of Nazi power from 1933-1945. They also point out Bonn was the crucible for German democracy after the Nazi years.

"Bonn was federal capital for over 40 years," said Bonn mayor Hans Daniels. "During this time it became a symbol of the first successful German democracy."

"This city (Bonn) — which has no triumphal arches — has never displayed itself with arrogance," Daniels said in a newspaper interview one day before unity. It was an oblique reference to Berlin's famous Brandenburg Gate and the Nazi parades that were once held there.

But Berlin backers say Bonn is so small and unexciting that it is

totally unacceptable as political centre of the new, enlarged Germany.

"Berlin is supremely suited (to be government seat) in view of its location, its history, and its role as a cultural crossroads," said Berlin Mayor Walter Momper.

Momper also says that unlike Bonn, in the eyes of the world Berlin is in the same class as London, Rome, Paris, and Madrid.

That kind of talk raises the hackles of Daniels and other Bonn supporters.

According to Daniels, keeping the government and parliament in Bonn would ensure that Berlin would not acquire the centralised power it once wielded over the rest of Germany.

"The Germans would be declaring for themselves a national modesty with Bonn as the seat of government and parliament," said Daniels.

Indeed, if there's any one word that best fits Bonn, it's "modest." The government complex in Bonn is a stream-around collection of buildings whose architectural styles range from drab to dismal.

Federal lawmakers hold their sessions in Bonn's former waterworks, a vast, homely structure on the banks of the Rhine.

Visitors don't generally spend much time in Bonn. They might ride a tour bus to view the gov-

ernment complex, but they're rarely seen getting out for a close-up look.

Bonn's best-known sights — such as Beethoven's birthplace, its charming market square and 18th-century city hall — require less than a day of casual looking.

Lawmakers from now-extinguished East Germany showed some curiosity about Bonn when they attended the new all-German parliament's first working session Friday.

But they quickly left town when the session was over, some of them complaining about finding a place to eat late at night.

In contrast, Berlin is home to a seemingly infinite array of cultural and historical offerings, including the Berlin Wall, the Reichstag, numerous museums, and some of the best music and theatre in Europe.

Nonetheless, Bonn boosters say tourist appeal has nothing to do with government.

Daniels says Bonn, sitting on the rim of Western Europe, is a perfect "bridge" between the new Germany and the West.

Daniels also says that Bonn would become a virtual ghost town if the government and parliament were moved out.

Of Bonn's 300,000 people, the vast majority have jobs somehow linked to the government. Daniels also points out mammoth financial outlays would be

needed to move the government to Berlin. Some experts say the transfer could cost up to 100 billion marks (\$65 billion).

Another argument against the move is that Bonn is already in the midst of enormously expensive construction projects that include the building of a new parliament and generally giving the city more appeal.

It would be Deutsche marks down the drain if those projects were stopped now.

There have been hints from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government that he too thinks moving the government would be too costly. Kohl recently said parliament should not rush into making a decision on the matter.

"This is certainly not a question which is of any urgency to me, as far as the agenda is concerned," said Kohl.

But it's an open question whether the new parliament — with many new lawmakers who favour Berlin — will agree with him.

Whoever emerges victorious from this battle, Bonn's self-esteem has been boosted immeasurably from its ongoing scrap with Berlin.

That becomes clear while sitting in a traffic jam, waiting for a tractor carrying manure to clear an intersection, and one notices the large number of cars bearing stickers reading "yes to Bonn."

COLUMN

Kris Aquino falls during live TV show

MANILA (AP) — President Corazon Aquino's 19-year-old daughter fell from a stage Sunday as she was about to sing and dance during a live television show. Kristine Bernadette Aquino was rushed to a hospital with undisclosed injuries. The show's producer said she was not seriously hurt. Producer German Moreno said Ms. Aquino missed the steps of a makeshift platform while preparing for a dance routine. She fell and disappeared beneath the 5-foot stage in front of a national television audience and thousands of surprised viewers at the Araneta Coliseum in suburban Quezon City, where the show is aired. The incident caused panic as presidential guards and production staff rushed to pull her out from the hole. A director was seen signalling crewmen to shut off cameras. "Accidents always happen," a trembling Moreno said on television. "We did not expect that it would happen to her. I would like to apologise." At the end of the show, Moreno announced that Ms. Aquino, a fledgling but highly paid actress, was in good condition except for pains in her legs.

New York orchestra managing director quits

NEW YORK (AP) — Albert K. Webster, who has managed the New York Philharmonic for 15 years, has announced he will resign at the end of the year to work as an arts consultant. Webster, 52, said he delayed his decision until a new music director was chosen to replace Zubin Mehta, who is leaving in May at the end of the 1990-91 season. Kurt Masur, music director of the orchestra in Leipzig, Germany, was chosen in April to replace Mehta. Webster, who graduated from Harvard in 1959 with a degree in physics, worked as a chemical engineer for one year before quitting to enter the arts field. He became managing director at the philharmonic in 1975 and was given the additional title of executive vice president in 1978. His contract expires on Dec. 31, after which he will serve as consultant to the 148-year-old philharmonic for two years.

Loose bull scatters crowd at fair

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) Brahman bull got loose at the Mississippi State Fair, scattering crowds and bowling over pursuers. "If it had been any other kind of bull but a Brahman, we could have walked right up to it," said Jamie Cox. "But Brahman are mean." The bull snapped its rope behind a barn and wandered into a field where cars and livestock trailers were parked. Then the bull, apparently frightened by a growing circle of onlookers, stormed toward the midway. "I looked up and saw a lot of scary looks like there was a gang fight," said Johnny Mimminger. "All of a sudden, a bull came out of the crowd with about 50 people chasing it." Fire Lt. Rudy Brooks suffered a blow to his left leg when he tangled with the bull. He said it knocked him into a trailer and under it. "I had him around the head trying to keep from getting my insides squashed out," Brooks said. The growing crowd steered the bull into a left turn, past a concession stand, and into the livestock judging arena where it was corralled with a makeshift cage. "We brought in another bull and a heifer to tame him down," Brooks said.

Lion found in Brooklyn flat

NEW YORK (R) — A New York neighbourhood breathed a sigh of relief after police arrested a lion. The lion, whose roars disturbed people so much they called the police, was found in a one-room, no-exotic-animals-allowed flat in the Brooklyn residential area by investigators from the Society